You're My Pet
14
Yayoi Ogawa

BY YAYOI OGAWA

You're my Pet

VOL. 14

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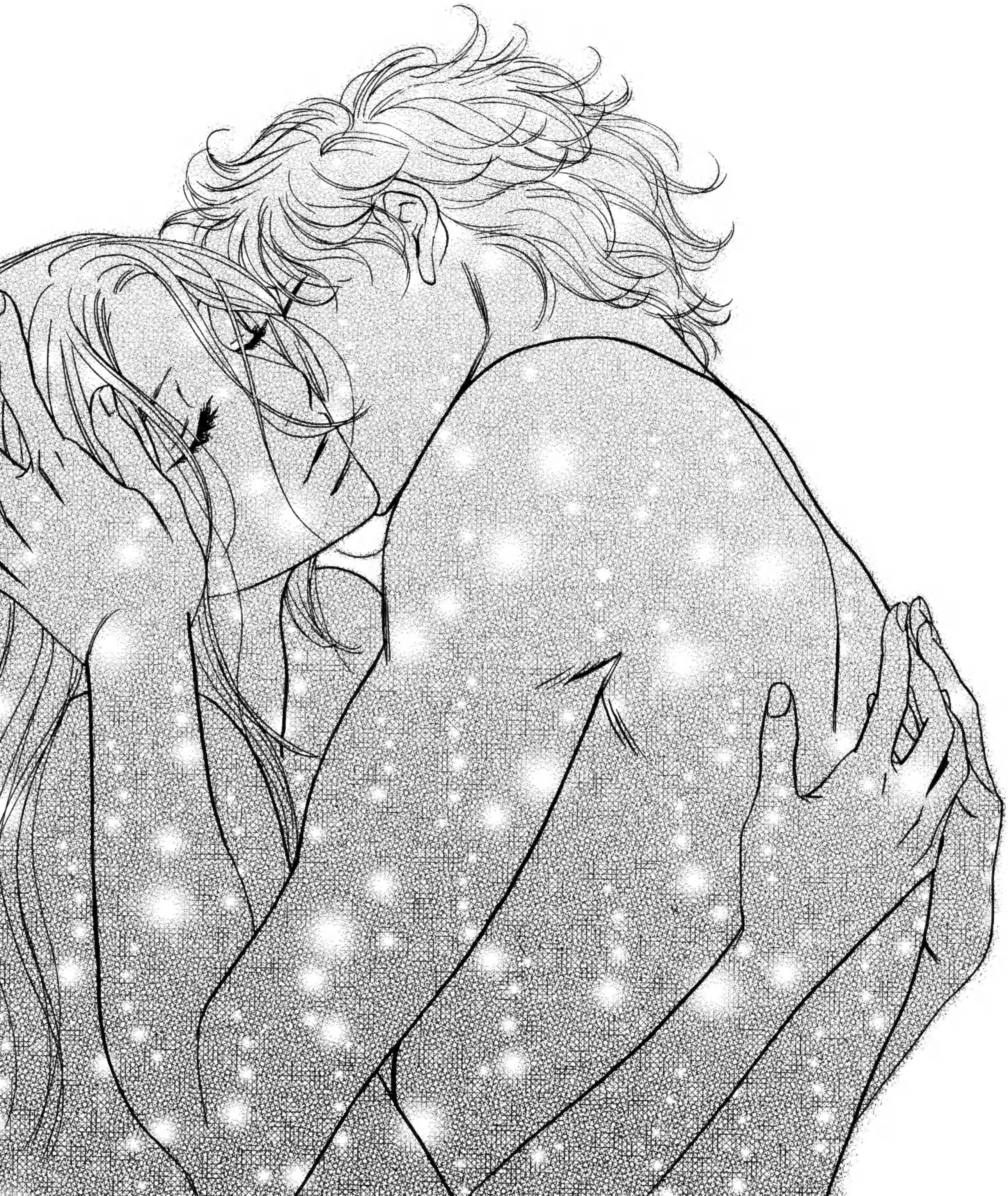
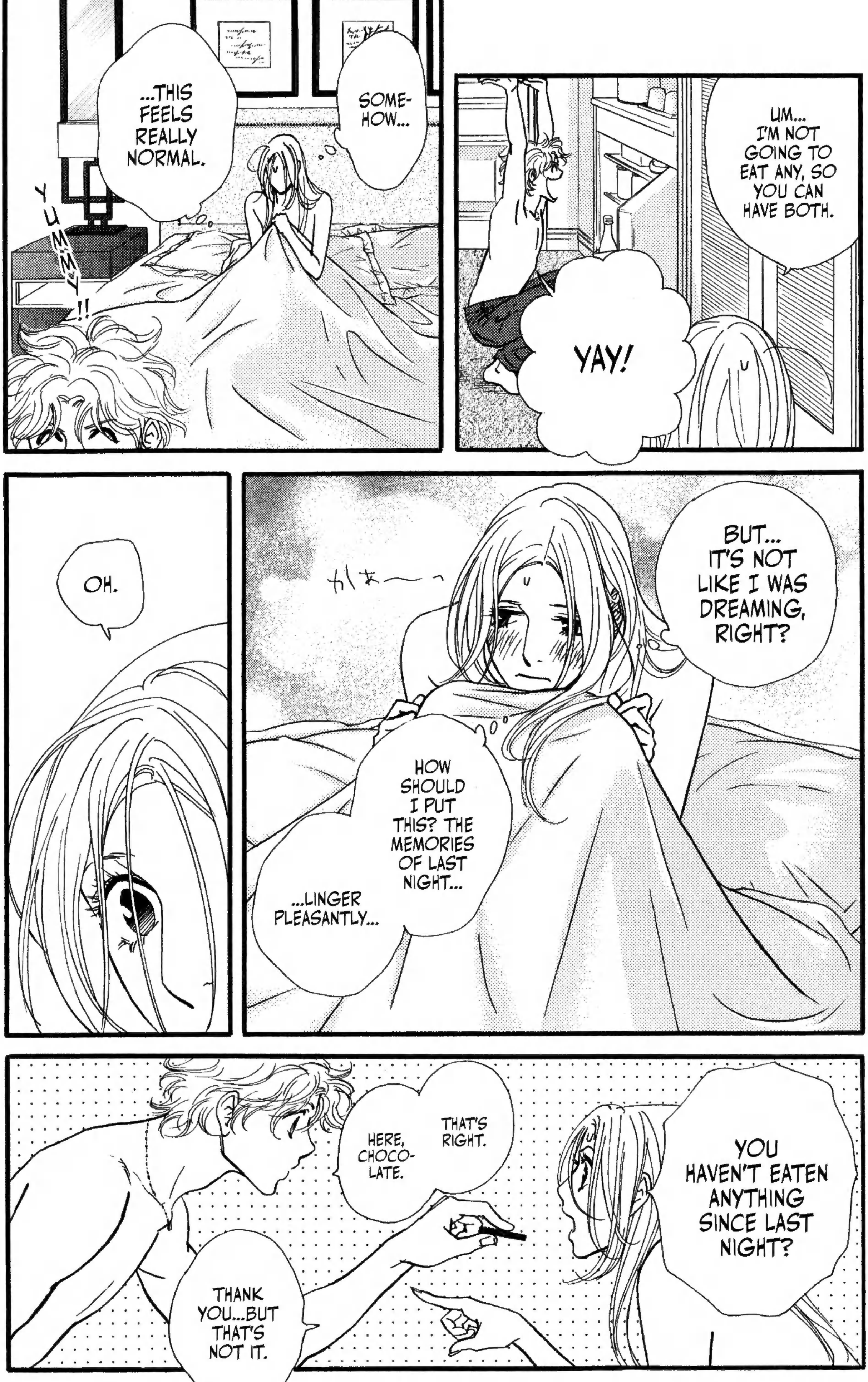
RULE 77: HOW TO MAKE A FAMILY



TO BE LOVED...
SO THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE.

MORNING, SUMIRE-CHAN!
UH... IT'S MORNING ALREADY?
YEP.
WANT SOME WATER?
HEY, HEY. LOOK! THIS FRIDGE HAS PIERRE MARCOLINI CHOCOLATES IN IT!
NEAT, ISN'T IT?!
CAN I HAVE ONE?


UM... I'M NOT GOING TO EAT ANY, SO YOU CAN HAVE BOTH.
YAY!
SOME-HOW...
...THIS FEELS REALLY NORMAL.
YUMMY!!
BUT... IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS DREAMING, RIGHT?
かぁ～っ
HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS? THE MEMORIES OF LAST NIGHT...
...LINGER PLEASANTLY...
OH.
YOU HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING SINCE LAST NIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
HERE, CHOCO-LATE.
THANK YOU...BUT THAT'S NOT IT.

OOP!
I HAVE TO HURRY UP AND GET READY FOR BREAKFA--
I'D RATHER STARVE THAN GO OUT.
OR RATHER, MAYBE I'D PREFER TO EAT YOU.
WAIT...
WAIT A--
もぞ もぞ
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? YOU'VE GOT TOO MUCH ENERGY FOR SO EARLY IN THE MORNING.
WELL, I AM A YOUNG MAN IN THE PEAK OF HEALTH AND HORMONES.
STOP!!
UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T HAVE YOUR SUPERHUMAN ENDURANCE.
ANYWAY, I'LL CATCH A COLD IF I DON'T GET DRESSED SOON.
DRAG DRAG
DARN IT.

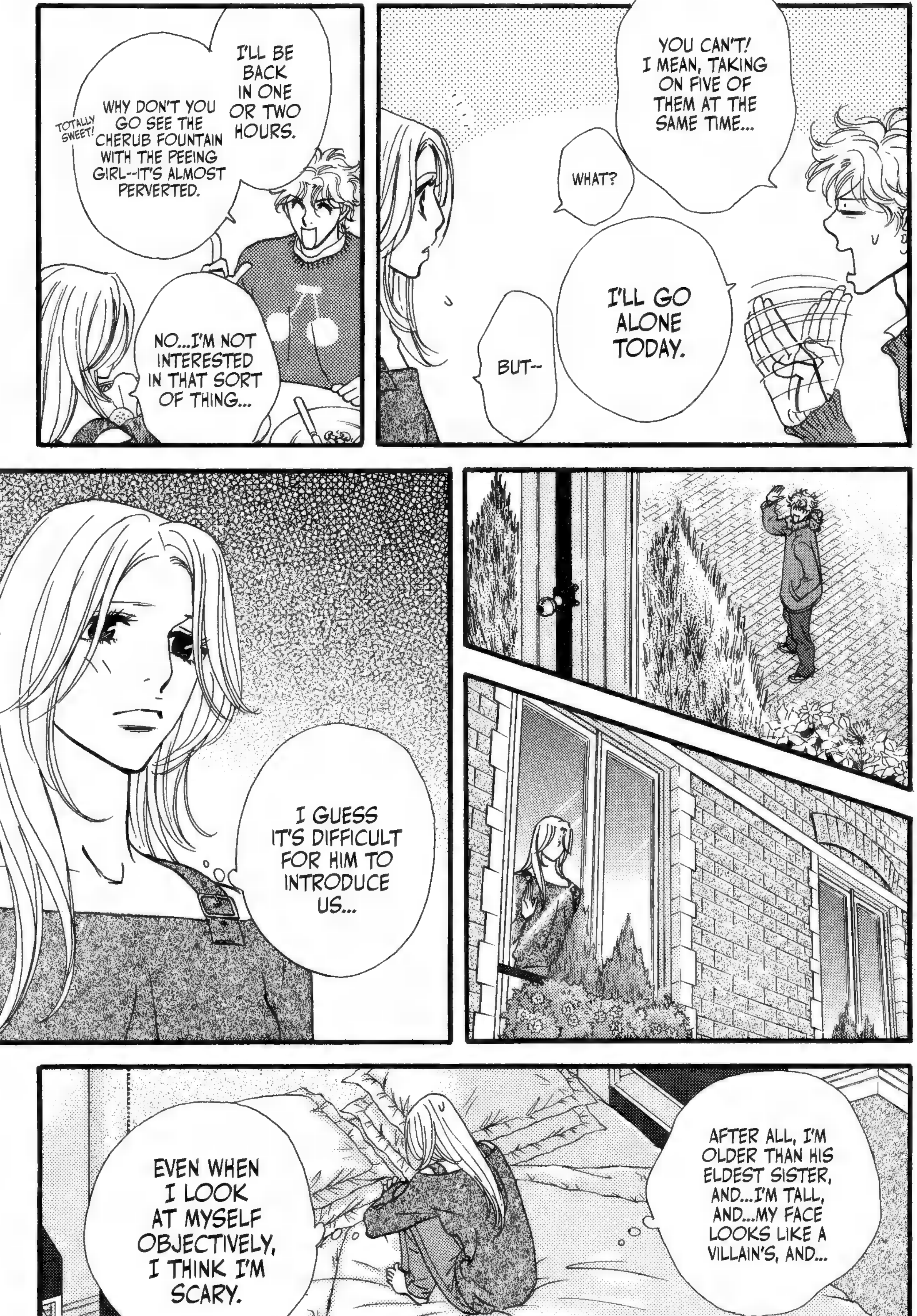
SIIIGH...
YOU WERE SO CUTE LAST NIGHT.
YOU SAID THINGS LIKE...
FALSETTO
..."I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE. I'M GOING CRAZY."
...ALL SEXY-LIKE.
QUIVER QUIVER
AFTER YOU SAID ALL THOSE SEXY THINGS--
I WOULD NEVER HAVE SAID THAT, NOW WOULD I?!
ばし
ばし
OUCH, OUCH, OUCH!
YOU DID!
DID NOT!!
IS SOMEONE HAVING A FIGHT IN JAPANESE?
35
THUD
SLAM
OF COURSE THERE ARE JAPANESE SPEAKERS HERE.
AFTER ALL, THIS HOTEL'S FAMOUS.
WE'RE GOING TO TAKESHI'S APARTMENT AFTER BREAKFAST, OKAY?
WHAT? I WANT TO SEE DRIES VAN NOTEN'S STORE.
OH, MIYUKI, YOU'RE SO...

WHAT? YOUR MOTHER AND SISTERS ARE HERE?
YEP. I FORGOT IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT, BUT...
...THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BE AT THE THEATER YESTERDAY.
YOU'RE KIDDING! WERE THEY RIGHT NEXT TO ME OR SOMETHING?
I MADE SURE THAT YOU WEREN'T SITTING NEXT TO EACH OTHER WHEN I GOT THE TICKETS.
I WOULDN'T THROW A SHEEP TO A PACK OF WOLVES LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW.
WOLVES?
THEY'RE YOUR FAMILY!
DID YOU EVEN TELL THEM THAT I WAS COMING?
OF COURSE I DIDN'T.
WE NEED A DETAILED STRATEGY FOR WHEN I INTRODUCE YOU TO THEM, OR ELSE.
THEY'RE AS HOSTILE AS ALIEN LIFE FORMS, YOU KNOW.
きしゃー

I... I UNDER-STAND...
OKAY.
......
MOMO? WHAT'S WRO--?
TAKE COVER!
HUH?!!
SHOOTING STAR KICK!
ENEMY SOLDIERS SIGHTED!!
TALK NORMALLY!
MY MOM AND FOUR SISTERS ARE HERE!!

THEY ENDED UP GETTING ROOM SERVICE.
THIS IS A PROBLEM.
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE STAYING AT THIS HOTEL.
YOU'RE KIDDING.
?
BUT DO WE REALLY HAVE TO CRAWL?
ずり ずり ずり
RIIING
GYA!
WHAT IS IT?
MY CELL PHONE.
I JUST GOT ONE.
I WONDER IF WE CAN LOSE THEM SOMEHOW.
BUT THAT'S... AFTER THEY CAME ALL THIS WAY...
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
HMM, YOU'RE RIGHT. I BET THEY'D NEVER SHUT UP IF I DITCHED THEM.
HELLO...?
A-
AKEMI?!
I GOT YOUR NUMBER FROM YOUR ROOMMATE.
WHERE ARE YOU RIGHT NOW?

OH, THEN WE JUST MISSED EACH OTHER.
WELL, THAT'S ALL RIGHT. LET'S HAVE LUNCH.
THIS LOOKS NICE, AKEMI-CHAN.
GUIDEBOOK TO BELGIUM
UMM...AT THE RESTAURANT AT GALERIES ROYALES SAINT-HUBERT.
PHEW! I'M SO GLAD I DIDN'T TELL THEO WHERE WE'RE GOING!!
WHERE? WELL, THAT IS... UH, UMM...
JUST IN OLD TOWN... TO SEE A FRIEND AND...
THEY ASKED ME OUT TO LUNCH...
IF I DON'T GO, THEY'LL YELL SO MUCH I'LL WISH I HAD NEVER BEEN BORN.
I-IS THAT SO...?
YOU'LL REGRET IT IF YOU DON'T COME.
I'M SURE...
BUT...MAYBE THIS'LL BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY?
I'LL GO WITH YOU AND MEET THEM PROPERLY.



ALWAYS THE SAME POSE, NO MATTER WHERE SHE IS...

I CAN JUST SEE IT...
AND HOW DID YOU TWO MEET?
I TOOK HIM IN AFTER I FOUND HIM ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD...
MOM
SIS 1
SIS 2
SIS 3
SIS 4
AND THERE'S PROBABLY A LOT OF OTHER THINGS I'D HAVE TO LIE ABOUT...
BUT...
...I FEEL KIND OF LEFT OUT, MOMO.
HUH? WHERE'S MOM?
SHE WENT TO TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR SCHOOL.
SHE SHOULD BE HERE PRETTY SOON.

ARE YOU GROWING OUT YOUR HAIR? I'LL BE HONEST. IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
OR MAYBE YOUR BOYFRIEND LIKES IT OR SOMETHING?
FOURTH SISTER: ASAMI
THE SPORTY, BLUNT OLDER SISTER
TAKESHI'S NOT GAY, ASAMI...
...BUT NOW THAT I'M THINKING ABOUT YIN AND YANG, I DO FEEL SOME NEGATIVE ENERGY...
THIRD SISTER: SAYAKA
THE NEW-AGE SPIRITUALIST OLDER SISTER
NOW, ALL YOU MALE READERS, WHICH BIG SISTER DO YOU LIKE BEST?!
HEY, ARE THOSE THE FAMOUS GODIVA CHOCOLATES?
TAKESHI, BUY ME SOME GODIVA. GODIVA!
SECOND SISTER: MIYUKI
THE MATERIALISTIC, HIGH-MAINTENANCE OLDER SISTER
TAKESHI! YOU DROPPED YOUR NAPKIN ON THE FLOOR.
DON'T DROP BREAD CRUMBS ALL OVER THE PLACE. HOW EMBARRASS-ING.
ELDEST SISTER: AKEMI
GORGEOUS, PERFECT AND BOSSY OLDER SISTER
PEOPLE--WELL, JUST ME--CALL THEM THE "DEMON SISTER QUARTET!!"
I'M SORRY...
MOM'S REALLY LATE, ISN'T SHE?
HEY, TAKESHI. I THINK NEUHAUS IS BETTER AFTER ALL. GO BUY ME SOME.
SO THE BOSS ISN'T HERE, EH? OKAY!

DROP HINTS RIGHT NOW!
UMM, YOU KNOW... I TOLD AKEMI ABOUT IT A LITTLE LAST TIME...
YOU GOT AN OLDER GIRLFRIEND, RIGHT?
YOU WANT TO MARRY HER? ISN'T THAT WAY TOO FAST?
SHE'S TALLER THAN EVEN RUPAUL AND HAS THE FACE OF A VILLAIN, RIGHT?
ARE THEY CHARACTERS FROM A GYARUGE* OR SOMETHING?!
* GYARUGE IS SLANG FOR BAWDY GAMES AIMED AT GUYS--THEY HAVE A LOT OF GIRLS IN THEM. AND FOR SOME REASON, ALL THE CHARACTERS IN THIS GAME KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR PROTAGONIST. DISHONESTY CAN COST YOU A LIFE!
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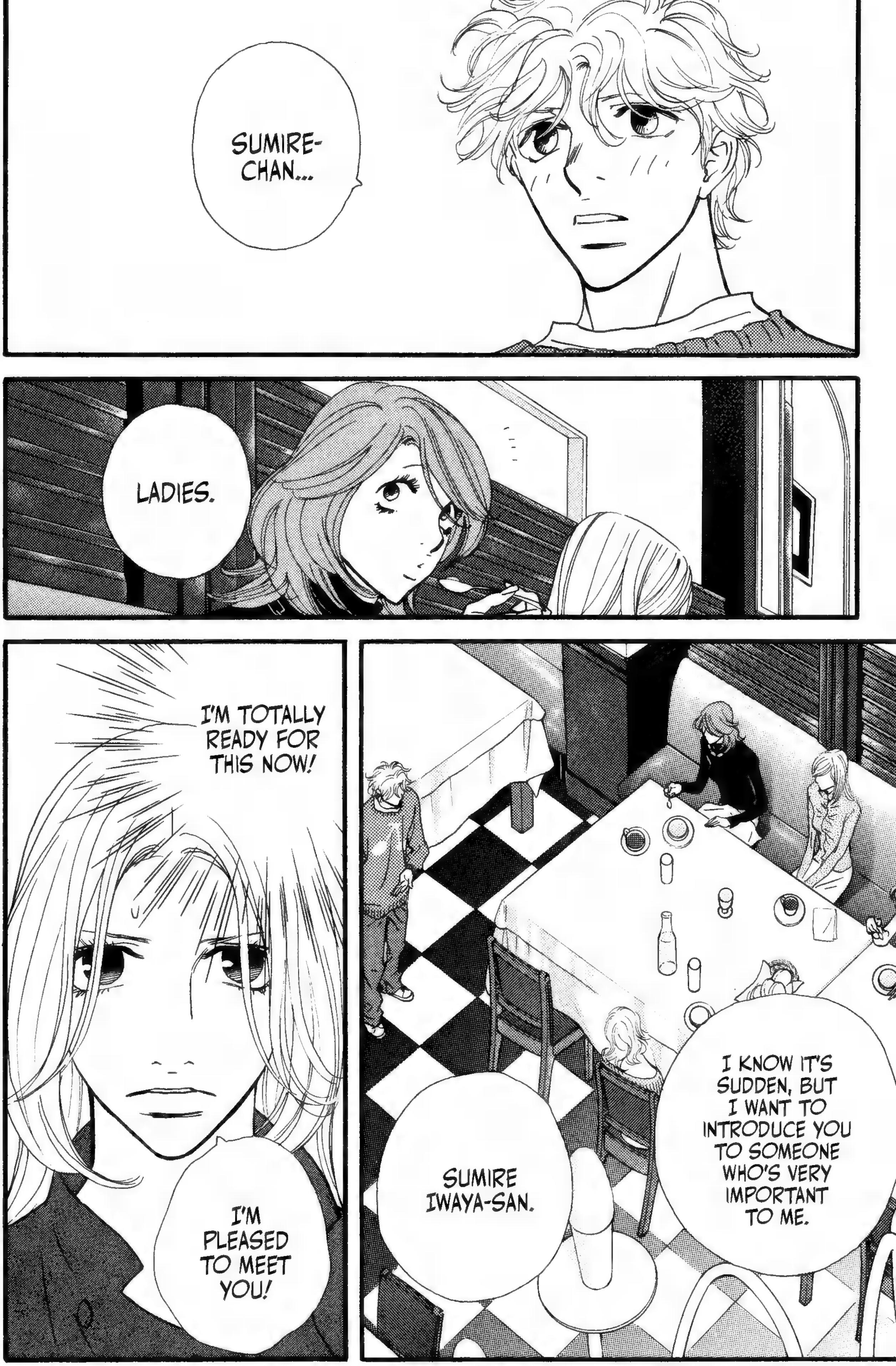
......
......
JUST A MINUTE, I... BATHROOM...
POO?
WHAT? IN THE MIDDLE OF A CONVERSAT-ION?
DURING A MEAL, TOO. HOW RUDE.
びくっ
SUMIRE-CHAN?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
OH... I'M SORRY.
IT BOTHERED ME A BIT... TO STAY BEHIND...AND...
OR WHAT I MEAN IS...
...WE'RE GOING TO BE A FAMILY, AREN'T WE?
IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE, MOMO, THEN...I...
...I THINK I WANT TO GREET THEM PROPERLY AFTER ALL.
I'LL TRY... NOT TO SCREW UP.


SUMIRE-CHAN...
LADIES.
I KNOW IT'S SUDDEN, BUT I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOMEONE WHO'S VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.
SUMIRE IWAYA-SAN.
I'M TOTALLY READY FOR THIS NOW!
I'M PLEASED TO MEET YOU!

MY FINGER-NAILS ARE OKAY!
NO MASCARA CLUMPS!
SHEER, KISSABLE LIPSTICK--OKAY!
I AM ENJOYING A VERY GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH TAKESHI-SAN.
TODAY...I AM VERY SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU SO SUDDENLY, WITHOUT PRIOR AUTHORIZATION.
HOWEVER... BECAUSE YOU ARE TAKESHI-SAN'S BELOVED SISTERS, I DESIRED TO MEET WITH YOU AT LEAST ONCE, AND...
...I AM VERY HAPPY TO HAVE MADE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.
I BEG OF YOU TO LOOK KINDLY UPON ME NOW AND FOR THE MANY YEARS AHEAD.
OH GREAT...
THEY DIDN'T BITE...
ENERGY COMPLETELY CONSUMED. BUT I HAVE NO REGRETS!
UMM...

SUMIRE-SAN, IS IT?
YES!
DID YOU NOTICE THAT YOU'RE STILL WEARING YOUR HOTEL'S SLIPPERS?
HOTEL AMICO BRUSSELS
HOTEL AMICO BRUSSELS
SUMIRE-CHAN!
HUH?!
WHAT...?!
GOOD. SHE CAME TO.
ASAMI, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPLASH WATER ON HER AFTER ALL.
I WAS SO SURPRISED. I'VE NEVER SEEN SOMEONE FAINT STANDING UP.

SUMIRE-SAN'S SUCH AN INTERESTING PERSON.
ACCORDING TO FENG SHUI, SHE'S NOT BAD FOR YOU...
I HOPE WE CAN BE GOOD FRIENDS. (EASY PREY!)
PLEASE THINK KINDLY OF US FOR THE MANY YEARS TO COME, TOO.
NOW WHICH BIG SISTER DO YOU LIKE?
Y-
YES! I WILL!
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THEY'RE REALLY WELCOMING ME!
IT'S A LITTLE EARLY TO GET HAPPY, TAKESHI...
WHAT?
MAYBE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN?
SHE STILL MUST MEET THE GODMOTHER.

BECAUSE YOU'RE AN AIRHEAD, SHE WON'T LIKE YOU.
WHAT?
SUMIRE-SAN, I HEAR YOU'RE A GOOD COOK?
WELL... I WOULDN'T SAY GOOD, BUT...
BUT YOU CAN AT LEAST MAKE BORSCHT, RIGHT?
OF COURSE! BORSCHT.
BORSCHT ...?
SHE'S HERE!!
!!
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

SUMIRE-CHAN, IT'S A HALLUCINATION.
SHE'S STILL HUMAN, YOU KNOW.
HUH?!
OH, DEAR...
AND SHE IS?
SUMIRE-CHAN?
YOU FAINTED AGAIN?!
YOU KNOW... THIS IS THE GIRL TAKESHI'S GOING OUT WITH--SUMIRE IWAYA-SAN.
SHE'S OLDER THAN TAKESHI, HAS A FACE LIKE A VILLAIN AND IS WEARING SLIPPERS, BUT SHE'S A NICE PERSON.
......
TAKESHI, ORDER ME SOME CARBONATED WATER AND SOME KIND OF SALAD, PLEASE.
YOUR MOTHER IS STARVING.
Y-YES.

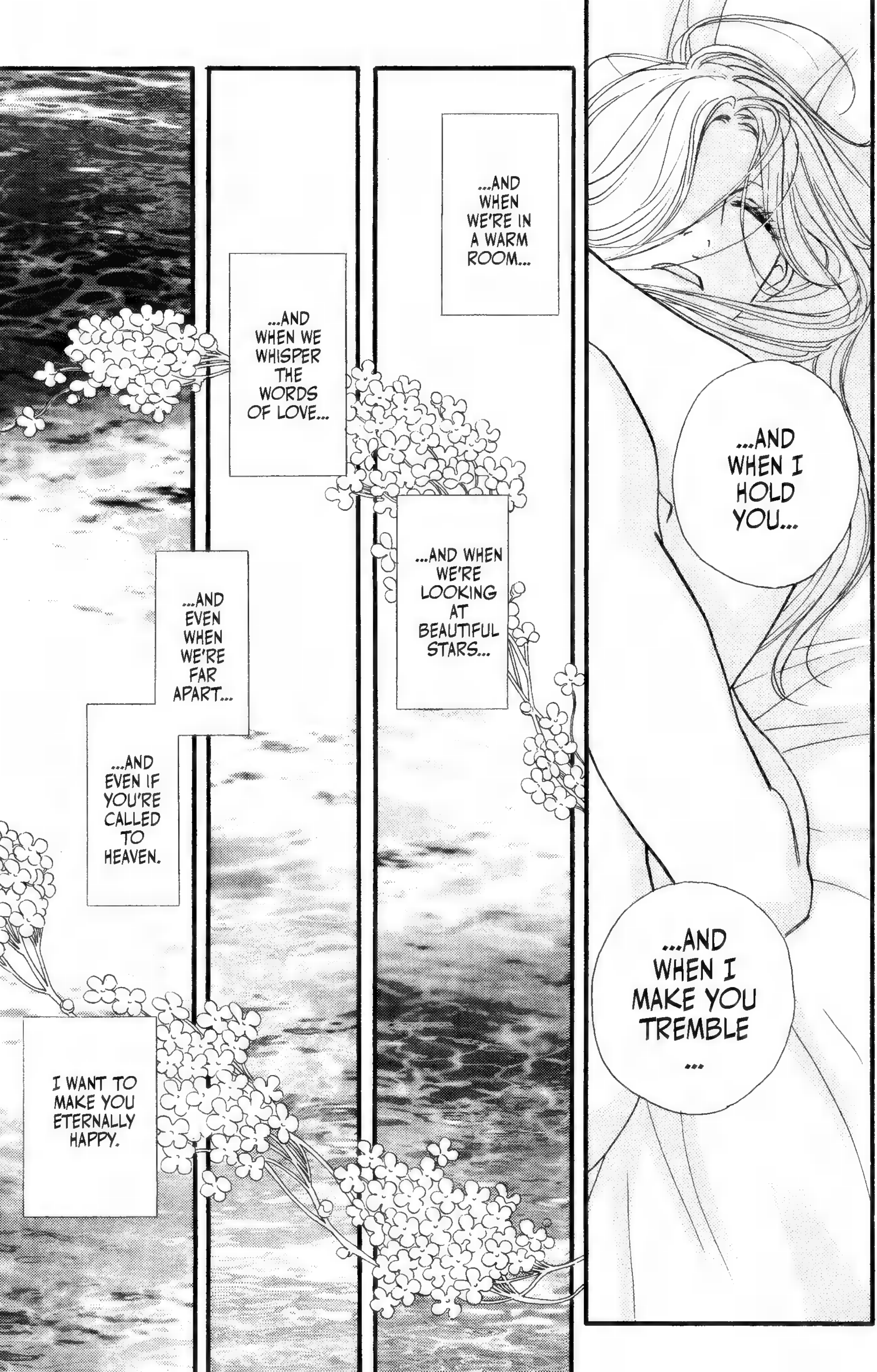
* A BALLET TERM FOR A SERIES OF LINKED STEPS THAT HELP THE DANCER TRAVEL ACROSS THE STAGE.

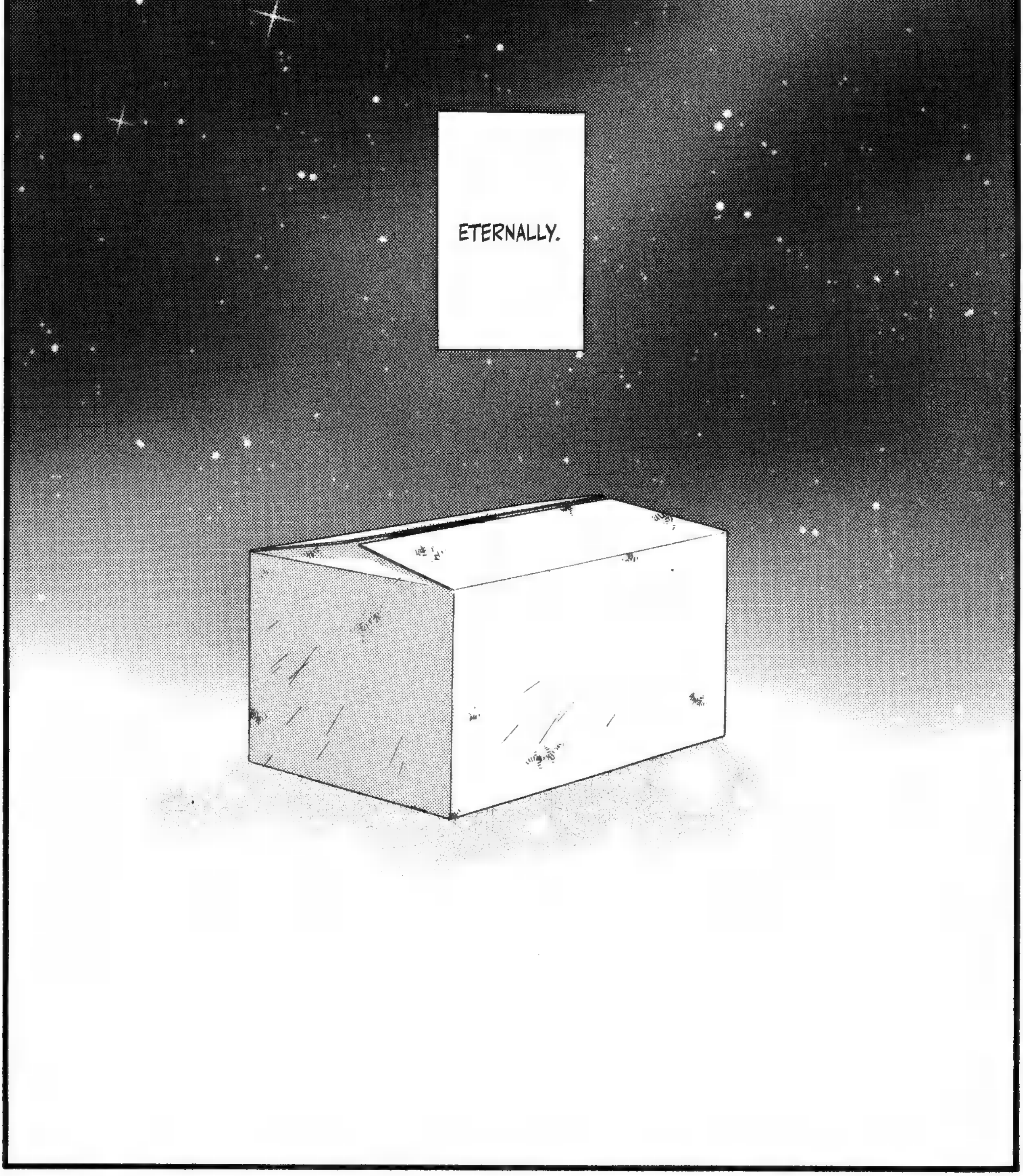
I UNDERSTOOD AS SOON AS I SAW LAST NIGHT'S PERFORMANCE...
...THAT YOUR PRESENCE HAS CHANGED MY SON.
I'D LIKE YOU TO CONTINUE THIS GOOD RELATIONSHIP.
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF TAKESHI, SUMIRE-SAN.
MOTHER ...!
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME YOUR MOTHER, THOUGH.
I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY.
OH, MY APOLOGIES...

CHEERS!
CHOCOLATE
YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD, AREN'T YOU, SUMIRE-CHAN?
YOUR MOM GAVE US HER BLESSING, SO I'M HAPPY.
EEK!
NOT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, BUT, SUMIRE-CHAN, WHEN YOU SAID, "WE'RE GOING TO BE A FAMILY, AREN'T WE?"...
...THAT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY.

IT'S AMAZING TO BECOME A FAMILY.
IF WE HAVE A BABY, THEN, YOU KNOW...
...FROM THEN ON, YOUR GENES AND MY GENES WILL BE TOGETHER FOREVER, SUMIRE-CHAN.
THERE WILL BE A RECORD OF OUR LOVE.
IT'S REALLY "LOVE ETERNAL."
YEAH...

OH... HEY, LET'S NOT.
YOUR SISTERS ARE IN THE NEXT ROOM.
DON'T WORRY! DON'T WORRY!
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE LISTENING WITH A CUP AGAINST THE WALL.
CAN YOU HEAR?
HMM, IT LEAVES SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED.
I SAID DON'T PUSH ME!
I LOVE YOUR FACE WHEN YOU'RE HAPPY...


...AND WHEN I HOLD YOU...
...AND WHEN I MAKE YOU TREMBLE ...
...AND WHEN WE'RE IN A WARM ROOM...
...AND WHEN WE'RE LOOKING AT BEAUTIFUL STARS...
...AND WHEN WE WHISPER THE WORDS OF LOVE...
...AND EVEN WHEN WE'RE FAR APART...
...AND EVEN IF YOU'RE CALLED TO HEAVEN.
I WANT TO MAKE YOU ETERNALLY HAPPY.


ETERNALLY.

AND THEN THE NEXT MORNING, SUMIRE REALIZED...
WAIT, MY FAMILY'S THE ONE WE SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT.

MA-CHAN GOES FOR IT!

FINALLY, HERE'S THE LAST EPISODE.

MATSU'S REBUTTAL CORNER

WHAT? SHOCK. AND I EVEN REALLY LIKE OGAWA-SAN'S HUSBAND! (NOT ROMANTICALLY OR ANYTHING BUT JUST NORMALLY. NORMALLY, LIKE A FRIEND!) OGAWA-SAN, PLEASE LOOK FAVORABLY UPON ME FOR A LONG TIME TO COME, TOO!

OF COURSE, THE LAST PANEL ISN'T TRUE. UP UNTIL NOW, I'VE SHOWN YOU A MISCHIEVOUS MATSU WITH A LOT OF FICTION MIXED IN, BUT SHE'S REALLY AN ACCOMPLISHED EDITOR WHO'S WON A LOT OF AWARDS IN HER COMPANY. ♡ I HOPE YOU KEEP GOING FOR IT ON YOUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT, TOO, MA-CHAN. OH, AND I THINK WHEN YOU GIVE DOCUMENTS TO PEOPLE OUTSIDE OF THE OFFICE, YOU SHOULD PUT THEM IN ENVELOPES...

RULE 78: LÉTRANGER

YES.
UMM, THIS IS THE SCHOOL I GO TO.
IT'S ONLY BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE I GOT HERE...
...SO LANGUAGE IS MY BIGGEST OBSTACLE.
YES, IT'S A BIG PROBLEM.
ONCE UPON A TIME, IN A FARAWAY LAND, THERE WAS A GIRL.
SHE HAD BIG EYES IN A SMALL FACE.
THE GIRL WAS ENER-GETIC AND SPARKLED LIKE A JEWEL.
THIS IS THE STUDIO.
RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE HAVING A FLAMENCO CLASS.
THEY DON'T JUST DO BALLET, BUT OTHER THINGS, LIKE THIS.
YEP. IT'S FUN.

* IKEBUKURO STATION IN TOKYO IS THE SECOND-BUSIEST TRAIN STATION IN THE WORLD.

WHAT WERE THEY FILMING? IS THAT A JAPANESE TV STATION?
IS IT A BIOGRAPHY ABOUT YOU, RUMI?
UH...UMM...
IT'S JUST GOING TO BE A SHORT CLIP IN THE NEWS, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THAT IN ENGLISH.
YEP, THAT'S RIGHT.
WOW! THEY'RE MAKING A WHOLE SHOW ABOUT YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU WENT ABROAD TO STUDY BALLET?
YOU'RE LUCKY TO HAVE COME FROM A COUNTRY THAT'S SO BEHIND IN THE ARTS.
YOU DON'T HAVE MANY TV CHANNELS, EITHER, DO YOU?
......
RUMI!

*THAT'S A BALLET TERM FOR "POSE." SHE'S NOT SAYING RUMI HAS A BAD ATTITUDE.

I CAN UNDERSTAND A LITTLE ENGLISH, BUT...
...I DON'T UNDERSTAND FLEMISH OR FRENCH AT ALL.
C'est vrai!?
MAYBE I'LL TAKE EXTRA LANGUAGE LESSONS.
HI, HOW'RE YOU DOING?
UH...HI. NOT BAD.
REALLY? YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD, YOU KNOW.
CATHY... SHE'S AMERICAN, SO SHE'S A FOREIGN STUDENT LIKE ME. SHE MIGHT UNDERSTAND MY PROBLEMS...
YEAH... TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...

OH!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR PHYSIQUE!
HUH? UH, NO--
THERE'S A LOT OF ACTIVE DANCERS WITH SHORT ARMS AND LEGS.
THEIR LOWER BODIES ARE STEADY BECAUSE THEIR LEGS ARE SHORT. YOU ASIANS ARE REALLY GOOD WITH JUMPS AND BALANCING, RIGHT?
...
RIGHT? THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR SHORT LEGS.
"THANK YOU. YOU HAVE FRECKLES ALL OVER YOUR FACE, BUT YOU CAN COVER THAT WITH MAKEUP. IN A YEAR, YOUR TORSO WILL BECOME EVEN MORE BARREL-LIKE, AND I'M SURE DIETING WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT. BUT DON'T GIVE UP AND DO YOUR BEST, OKAY?"
WHAT? WHAT DID YOU SAY?
IT'S THE UTMOST EXPRESSION OF THANKS IN JAPANESE.

......
I GUESS IT'S TRUE THAT, COMPARED TO THEM, MY LEGS MIGHT BE A BIT SHORT...
OR MAYBE IT'S NOT JUST A BIT, BUT...
HEY, LOOK! LOOK!
PROFESSOR HIVER IS HERE.
REALLY?
HE'S ALWAYS SO HOT. ♡
BUT THERE'S A RUMOR THAT HE'S GAY.
THEY SAY HE'S REALLY FRIENDLY WITH THE MODERN DANCE PROFESSOR, ZOMEL.
WHAAAT? OH NO!
IF HE IS, THEN I THINK HE'D LOOK GOOD WITH THE ANATOMY PROFESSOR, LENTE.
OH, RUMI, YOU'RE SO--
BUT IT MAKES SENSE!
RIGHT? RIGHT?
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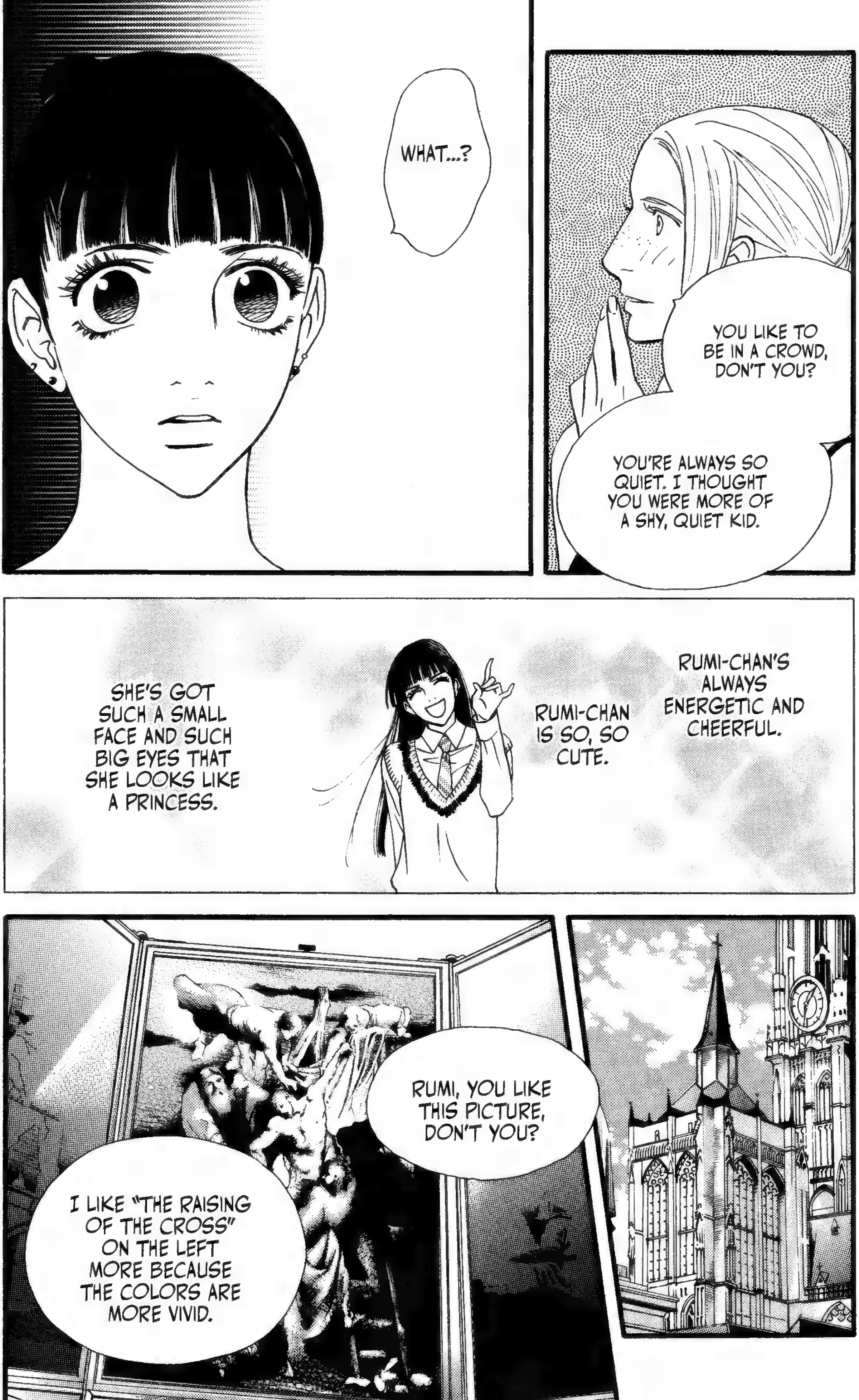

YOU LIKE TO BE IN A CROWD, DON'T YOU?
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO QUIET. I THOUGHT YOU WERE MORE OF A SHY, QUIET KID.
WHAT...?
RUMI-CHAN'S ALWAYS ENERGETIC AND CHEERFUL.
RUMI-CHAN IS SO, SO CUTE.
SHE'S GOT SUCH A SMALL FACE AND SUCH BIG EYES THAT SHE LOOKS LIKE A PRINCESS.
RUMI, YOU LIKE THIS PICTURE, DON'T YOU?
I LIKE "THE RAISING OF THE CROSS" ON THE LEFT MORE BECAUSE THE COLORS ARE MORE VIVID.

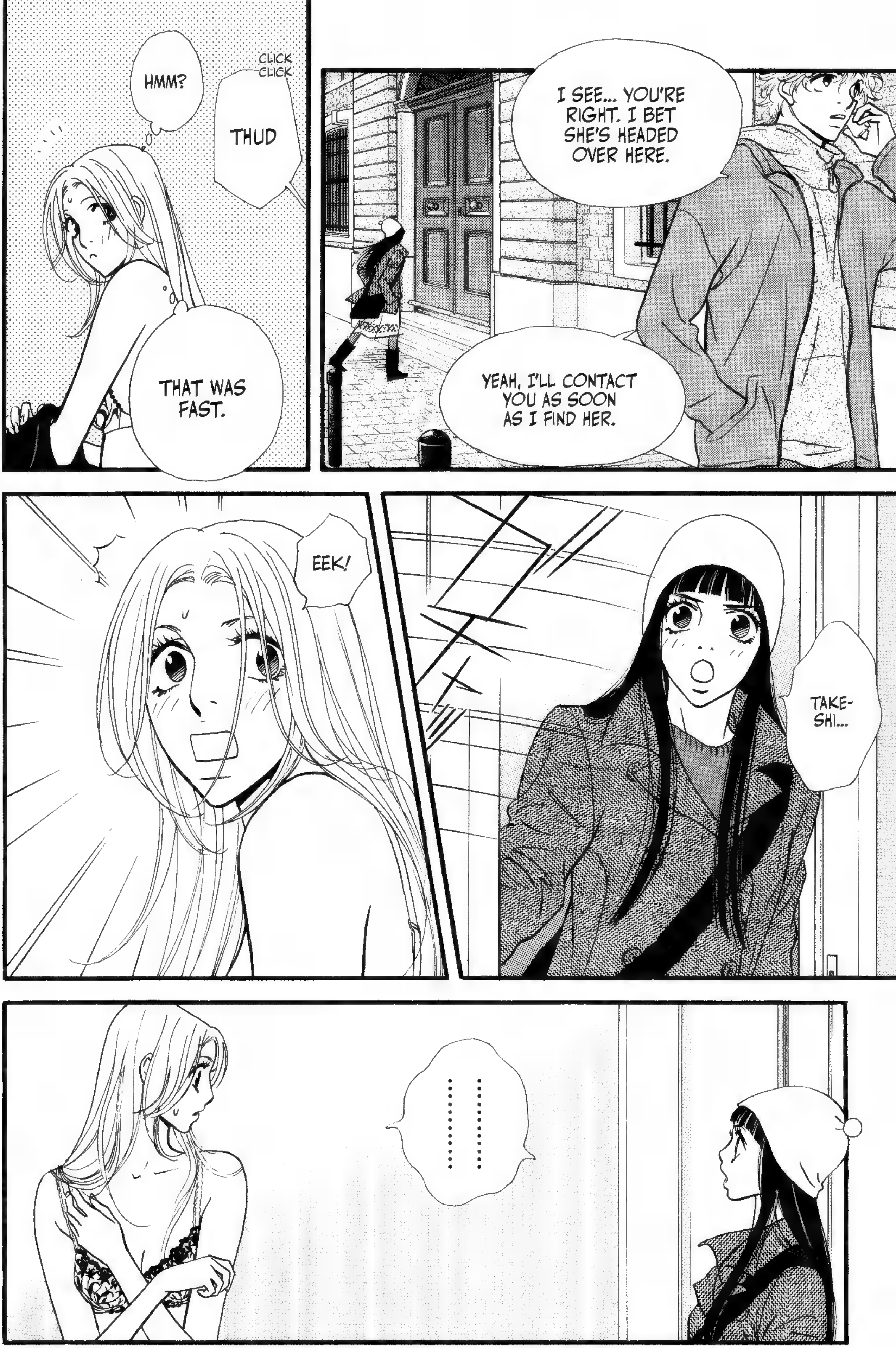
* THOSE ARE CHARACTERS FROM THE BOOK *A DOG OF FLANDERS*, WHICH WAS MADE INTO AN ANIME.

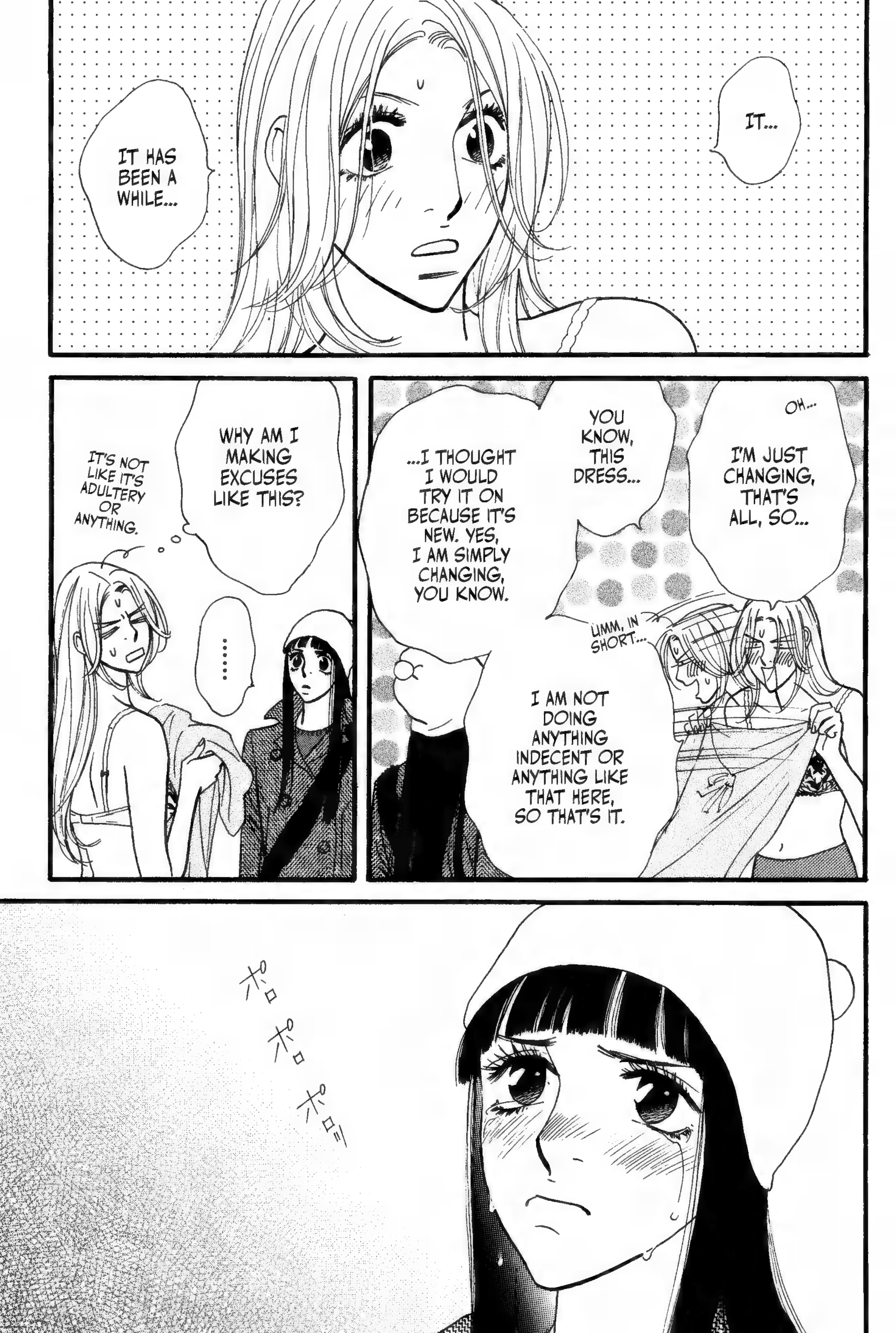
IF YOU CAN'T ASSERT YOURSELF, THEN YOU WON'T MAKE IT ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE, YOU KNOW.
I'VE ALWAYS SAID WHAT I WANTED TO!!
HOW ABOUT YOU?! WHY DON'T YOU LEARN JAPANESE IF YOU LIKE ME, STUPID?!
R-RUMI?
I CAN ASSERT MYSELF!!
SHH!
SHH!
SHH!
I-I'M SORRY.
YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL, YOU NATIVE THEO!!
RUMI!!

LOOK! IT'S THE LITTLE MISS OF SHIBUSAWA HOSPITAL.
MY, LOOK HOW CUTE SHE IS.
SHE'S GOING TO BE A FAMOUS BALLERINA SOMEDAY, ISN'T SHE?
THAT'S RIGHT. I GREW UP WITH EVERYONE FAWNING OVER ME.
I THOUGHT THERE WASN'T ANYTHING I COULDN'T GET MY HANDS ON...
AGAIN?

* AN ACTRESS WHO FINALLY GOT MARRIED AT THE AGE OF 40. TAKESHI'S TRYING TO SAY SHE'S REALLY, REALLY UNLIKELY TO GET DIVORCED.

......
GO HOME INDEED.
SCRATCH
I CAN'T BELIEVE I LIVED SO LONG WITH SOMEONE SO OVERSEXED AND NOTHING HAPPENED.
MY SKIRT'S WRINKLED...
OH WAIT. THAT DRESS AKEMI-SAN AND THE OTHER SISTERS BOUGHT ME AS A MEMENTO...
...I'LL TRY THAT ON.
RRING
HELLO?
OH, THEO.
WHAT? YOU FOUGHT WITH RUMI-CHAN AGAIN?


I SEE... YOU'RE RIGHT. I BET SHE'S HEADED OVER HERE.
YEAH, I'LL CONTACT YOU AS SOON AS I FIND HER.
CLICK CLICK
THUD
HMM?
THAT WAS FAST.
TAKE-SHI...
EEK!
......


IT...
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE...
OH...
I'M JUST CHANGING, THAT'S ALL, SO...
YOU KNOW, THIS DRESS...
...I THOUGHT I WOULD TRY IT ON BECAUSE IT'S NEW. YES, I AM SIMPLY CHANGING, YOU KNOW.
UMM, IN SHORT...
I AM NOT DOING ANYTHING INDECENT OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT HERE, SO THAT'S IT.
WHY AM I MAKING EXCUSES LIKE THIS?
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S ADULTERY OR ANYTHING.
......
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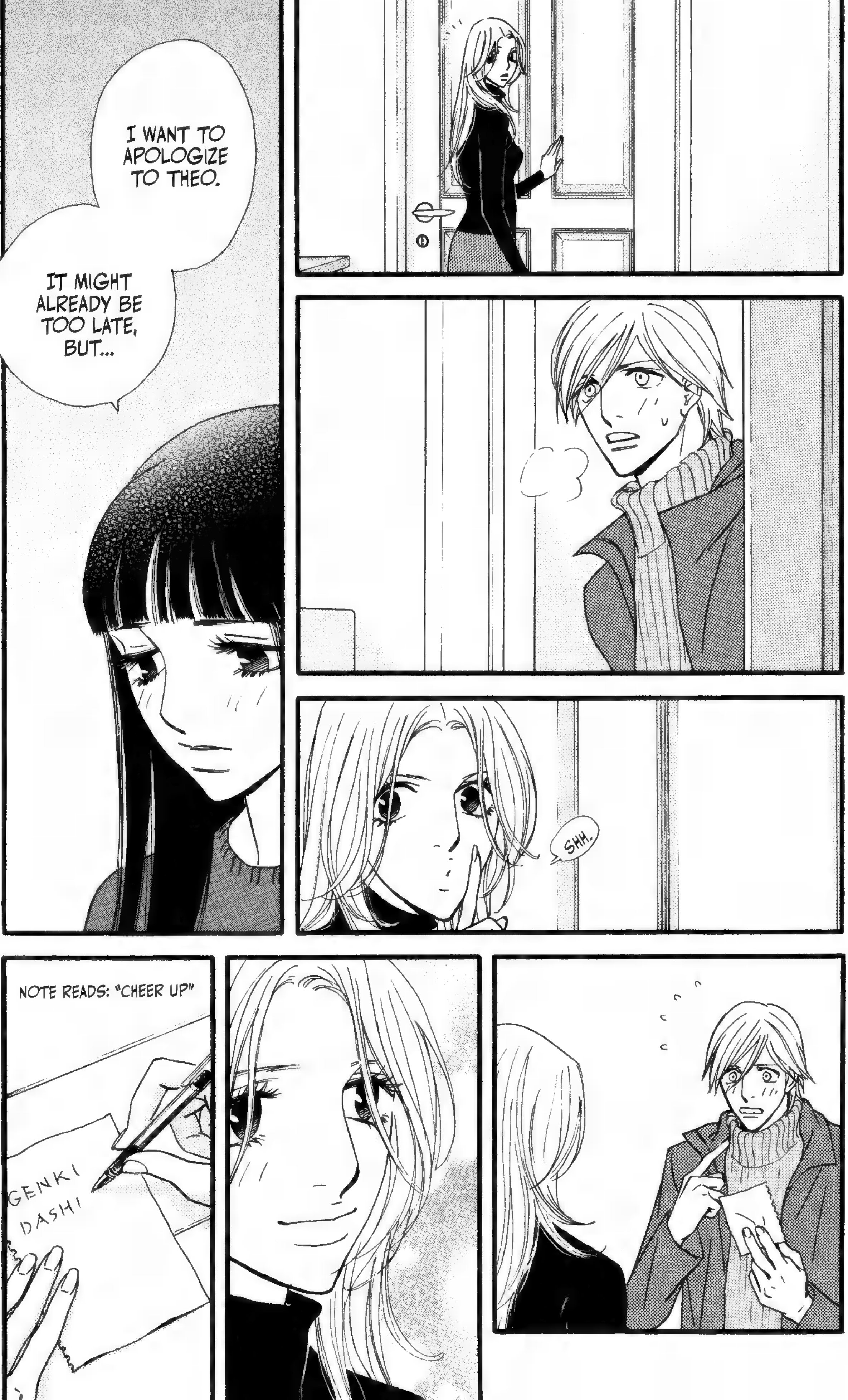
WAAH! SUMIRE-SAN!
WHAT?!!
WAAAH WAAH WAAH!
WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT...?
CLICK
FEELING BETTER NOW?

IT'S LIKE...
...I HEARD A LOT OF JAPANESE SPOKEN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE, SO THE TEARS JUST STARTED FALLING.
HOMESICK-NESS.
I WAS LIKE THAT THE FIRST TIME I WENT TO STUDY ABROAD, TOO.
IT'S NOT JUST THAT.
I-I CAN'T SAY WHATEVER I WANT ANYMORE. AND I'VE BEEN IRRITATED, AND...
...I DON'T WANT TO HAVE AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX. BUT... I'M STARTING TO HATE MYSELF, AND--
WHEN YOU GET LIKE THAT, YOU START NOTICING ONLY THE BAD THINGS.
IT'S OKAY NOT TO BE GOOD AT EVERYTHING.
YEAH...

I...KEPT ON GOING AFTER YOU ALL THAT TIME BECAUSE...
...I COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULDN'T HAVE.
I REALLY LIKED YOU, TAKESHI, BUT...
...I WAS JUST BEING STUBBORN NEAR THE END.
I'M SORRY.
THAT'S OKAY.
SNIFF
UM, HEY... HOW DO YOU SAY "I'M SORRY" IN FRENCH AGAIN?
FRENCH?


I WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO THEO.
IT MIGHT ALREADY BE TOO LATE, BUT...
SHH.
NOTE READS: "CHEER UP"
GENKI DASHI

IT'S ALL RIGHT. HE'S A LOT NICER THAN ME.
AHEM.
CLICK
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE A CUTE STRANGER.
IF THERE IS A GIRL LIKE THIS IN YOUR CITY, PLEASE BE NICE TO HER, OKAY?
RUMI, "CHEER UP. I LOVE YOU."
THEO...!

RULE 79: GENTLY, WITHOUT TOUCHING

WHEN YOU DRIVE BEHIND A LARGE VEHICLE, YOU HAVE TO LEAVE MORE OF A SPACE BETWEEN YOU AND THAT VEHICLE, OR...
...YOUR RESPONSE TO A SIGNAL AT AN INTERSECTION WILL BE LATE, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU NOT TO HOLD THE HANDLE LIKE THAT... YOU'RE BRAKING TOO MUCH, TOO.
REALLY, YOU'RE SO PICKY-PICKY. CHILL OUT.
SCREECH
OKAY. WE'RE HERE...
...MASTER.
"PICKY-PICKY"?

SIGN READS: NAGANO STATION
JR 長野駅
I'M GOING STRAIGHT BACK TO THE BRANCH OFFICE AFTER I GET BACK, SO IT'LL BE LATE BEFORE I GET HOME.
OKAAY.
......
HMM? WHAAT?
I'M COUNTING ON YOU IN MY ABSENCE.
RO-
ROGER, SIR!
WELL, NOW.
IT'S NICE OUT, SO I THINK I'LL DO THE LAUNDRY BEFORE I GO TO WORK.

WE'VE ALREADY LIVED HERE FOR SIX MONTHS...
IT'LL WORK OUT, RIGHT?
IT'S ALREADY BEEN FIVE MONTHS SINCE I'VE BEEN TO TOKYO.

I WONDER HOW IWAYA-SAN IS DOING?
SHE BRIEFLY WROTE SHE'S DOING WELL IN HER REPLY TO MY NEW YEAR'S CARD, BUT...
*A TAKEOFF ON POCKY, A POPULAR SNACK FOOD. NONI IS A FRUIT RELATED TO MULBERRIES.
OH, I WANT A NONI-FLAVORED POKKIN.*
TANAKA-KUN, PASS THE POKKIN.
SCHOOL-KIDS, EH? IT'S ALREADY SUMMER VACATION.
I WENT ON TRIPS WITH THE FENCING CLUB A LOT, TOO...
AND ONCE, WHEN WE WERE TRYING TO TRANSFER FROM THE BULLET TRAIN TO ANOTHER ONE THAT WAS ALREADY THERE...
HUH? I THINK WE'RE MISSING SOMEONE.
IS IT IWAYA?
HEY!
WHY'S SHE ON THAT?!
HOW COULD ANYONE BE SO DUMB?!
IN THE END, I WAITED FOR HER, ALONG WITH THE CAPTAIN OF THE CLUB.
IWAYA THE FRESHMAN, EH...? DIDN'T SHE ALSO FALL INTO THE LAKE?
SHE'S GREAT IN COMPETITIONS, THOUGH.

WAS IT REALLY THAT FUNNY?

くす くすっ
ISN'T THAT A WARNING SIGN?
LIKE HE'S GOING TO GO POSTAL?
HE'S GOT A CUTE FACE, BUT...
THAT'S FUNNY...
THE MEMORIES KEEP COMING, ONE RIGHT AFTER ANOTHER.
IT USED TO BE HARD JUST THINKING ABOUT HER, BUT...
THERE'S A HOUSE WITH A PET LION AROUND HERE, YOU KNOW.
I SAW IT STICK ITS HEAD OUT OF SOMETHING THAT LOOKED LIKE A DOGHOUSE.
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.
AFTER ALL, YOU CAN'T KEEP A LION IN A NORMAL HOUSE.
THAT IS TRUE, BUT...
HEY, I'M GOING HOME NOW.
OH, THEN I'LL SEE YOU HOME.
THAT'S OKAY. IT'S IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.
AND I'M GOING HOME WITH AOKI-KUN, WHO ALSO LIVES IN AKABANE, SO DON'T WORRY.

WHAT? THINGS AREN'T GOOD WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND OR SOMETHING?
......
THE PLACE I'M GOING TO START WORKING--I WAS SUPPOSED TO START AT THE MAIN OFFICE, BUT NOW IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO A BRANCH OFFICE IN KANAZAWA.
YEAH. AFTER ALL, YOU DID SAY THAT YOU WERE GETTING MARRIED.
BUT YOU'VE BEEN REALLY INTERESTED IN IWAYA-CHAN LATELY, RIGHT?
IT'S SO OBVIOUS, YOU KNOW, FROM THE WAY YOU ACT.
HUH?!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS...
SATO WAS DETERMINED TO GET HER TONIGHT, THOUGH.
IT'S REALLY CLOSE BY, THE HOUSE WITH THE LION.
YEAH, YEAH. BUT YOU KNOW, YOUR LEGS ARE PRETTY SHAKY...
...SO MAYBE WE'LL LEAVE THAT FOR SOME OTHER TIME AND LET YOU REST, EH?
BUT... THE LION...
YEAH, YEAH. BUT YOU KNOW IT'LL BE HORRIBLE IF YOU FALL IN A LAKE AGAIN, RIGHT? IT'S STILL COLD, YOU KNOW.
I SEE...

DEEP BOW
MY HOUSE IS REAL CLOSE, SO WHY DON'T YOU REST THERE? I'LL SEE YOU HOME LATER.
I SEE... I AM IN YOUR DEBT.
I'LL SEE YOU HOME.
WE WILL BE ARRIVING IN KARUIZAWA SHORTLY.
I GOT LOST IN SENTIMENTAL THOUGHTS.
BUT...
...IF I CAN REMEMBER THINGS SO FONDLY...

...MAYBE THAT MEANS I'M OVER HER.
AFTER ALL, IT'S ALREADY BEEN SIX MONTHS...
EVEN IN THE UNFORTUNATE EVENT THAT I BUMP INTO HER AT WORK, I THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT.
SHOULD I GREET HER NORMALLY?
YES, I'LL GREET HER LIKE I MET A FRIEND I HAVEN'T SEEN IN A WHILE.
HEY!
BUT BEING TOO CHEERFUL IS EVEN MORE UNNATURAL...
OH NO. HE'S STARTED TO TALK TO HIMSELF.
SHOULD I CALL THE CONDUCTOR?

AS MY WOUNDS HEALED AND THOSE BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES CAME BACK TO LIFE, I HAD TO WONDER...
WHERE DID WE GO WRONG?
OH, HASUMI-KUN!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE! I WAS SURPRISED WHEN I GOT YOUR NEW YEAR'S CARD.
I HEAR YOU'RE IN NAGANO?
YES...

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
IT'S ABOUT THE NEW POLICY.
OH, THE LETTER "S" INTRODUCTION EXPLANATION MEETING.
UMM...
HMM?
UH...NO. UMM...
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE SWEATING, AND YOU'RE ALL RED.
YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY AFTER YOU HIT 30, YOU KNOW. STUFF LIKE YOUR URINARY TRACT AND EVERYTHING.
YOU'RE STILL SINGLE, AREN'T YOU? I KNOW SOMEONE MY AGE WHO'S ALREADY HAD PROSTATE SURGERY...
I WANT TO ASK HOW IWAYA-SAN'S DOING, BUT...
...I CAN'T HELP BUT HESITATE.
OH YEAH, DID YOU KNOW? IWAYA-SAN'S GETTING MARRIED, QUITTING THE COMPANY AND GOING OVERSEAS.
I WAS SURPRISED WHEN I HEARD THE GROOM'S GOING TO BE HER SECOND COUSIN, GOUDA-KUN, THE DANCER...
...BECAUSE I THOUGHT SHE WAS GOING OUT WITH YOU.
NISHIDA: THE DEEP THROAT OF KODAN SHINBUN!

*100 YEN IS THE EQUIVALENT OF LESS THAN A DOLLAR.

TAKESHI-KUN, EH? THEY WERE REALLY CLOSE AFTER ALL... AND SOME PEOPLE MARRY THEIR COUSINS... BUT...
BUT I WOULD NEVER HAD THOUGHT OF HER *SECOND COUSIN*... JEEZ... HER SECOND COUSIN...
WELL, I GUESS YOU WOULDN'T NORMALLY CATEGORIZE THE *SECOND COUSIN* AS A THREAT, RIGHT?
I...LOST TO HER *SECOND COUSIN*... I SEE...
OOH, I THOUGHT SO! YOU WERE GOING OUT WITH THAT HASUMI GUY.
WHAT?
IWAYA-SAN?!
I MET HIM ONCE. HE'S A GOOD-LOOKING GUY, ISN'T HE?
HOW LONG HAVE THEY BEEN SITTING RIGHT NEXT TO ME?!

I KNOW I'M BEING NOSY, BUT WHY'D YOU BREAK UP?
STAB
UMM...
WELL, THE DIRECT CAUSE WAS...
TOLE
THE CAUSE WAS?
HE WAS LIVING WITH ANOTHER WOMAN.
PBBBBT!
TOLE

HMM?
ガタッ
SIR, IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
I DROPPED 100 YEN.
I GUESS THAT PERSON DROPPED 100 YEN.
100 YEN? THE RECESSION'S STILL THAT BAD?
コソコソ
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
UMM, WHAT WAS I...?
YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT THE TWO-TIMER.
ヨロッ
TWO-TIMER...?
SHE KNEW... ABOUT FUKUSHIMA-SAN...?
BUT HOW...? NO, NOBODY KNEW...
THE ONLY WAY IS IF THAT IDIOT TOLD HER DIRECTLY... BUT...

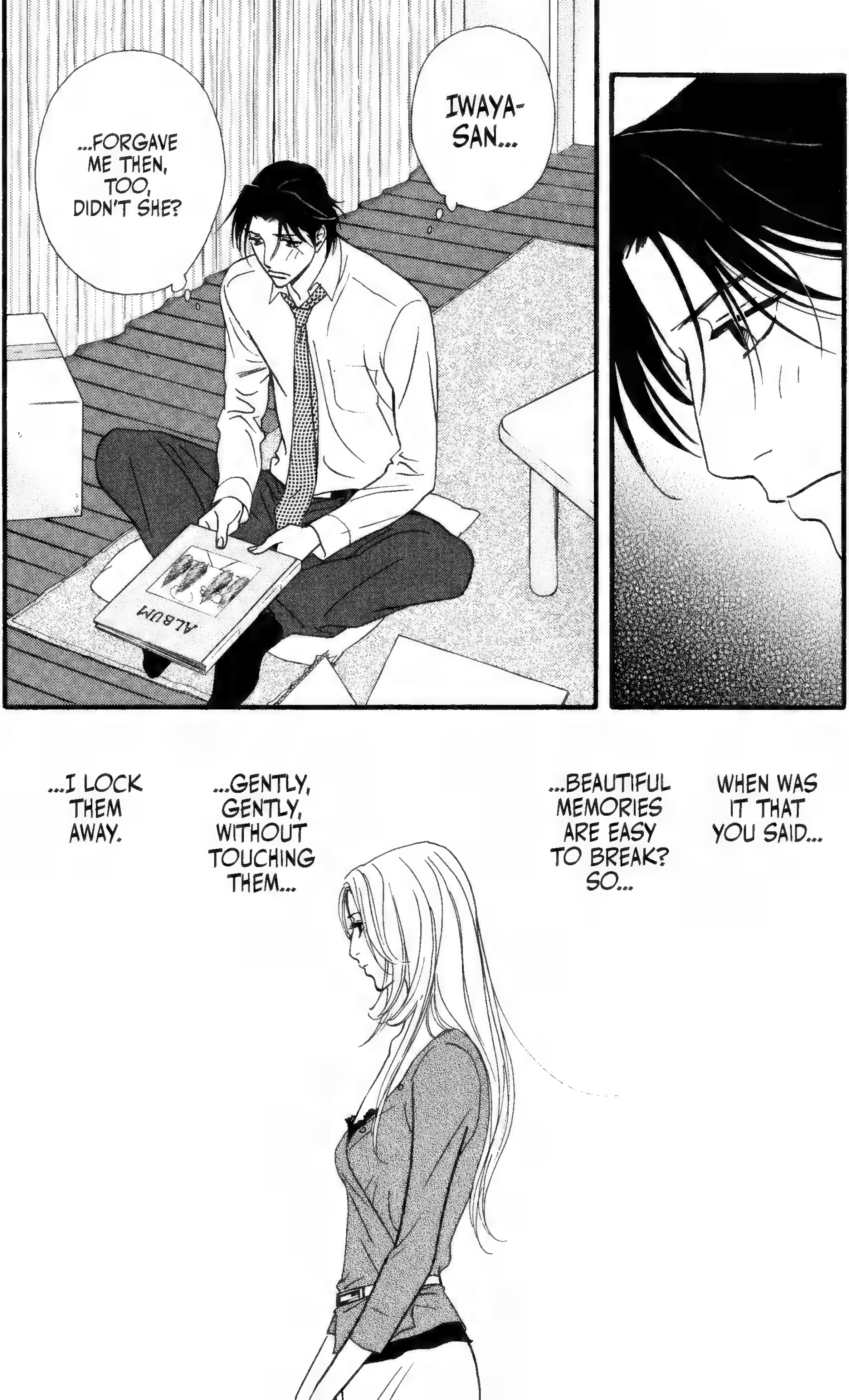
...IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU BLAME ME WHEN WE BROKE UP?
WAS IT BECAUSE SHE WAS LYING, TOO? AND THEN I... COULDN'T BLAME HER, EITHER...
"...PLEASE DON'T PUSH YOURSELF..."
SORRY. CAN I STAY HERE TONIGHT?
THIS IS UNEXPECTED. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO YOKOHAMA?
I'M TIRED.
I'M NOT CONFIDENT I CAN TAKE DAD'S "YOU MARRIED YET?" ATTACK RIGHT NOW.

WHAT ARE THESE CARDBOARD BOXES FOR?
OH, THOSE. THEY REMODELED THE HOUSE BACK HOME.
THEY SENT OUR THINGS OVER HERE TO GET THEM OUT OF THE WAY.
YOU SHOULD SEND YOUR STUFF OVER TO NAGANO.
IT'S IN THE WAY.
BOOKS AND... THESE ARE...
...ALBUMS, EH?
ALBUM
FLIP
......
HEY, HEY, HOW'S THAT NEWSPAPER-REPORTER LADY DOING?
SHE MIGHT BE THE MODEL FOR THE HEROINE IN THE SHORT NOVEL I'M WRITING.
...HUH?

FLIP
FLIP
DID IWAYA-SAN...EVER LOOK LIKE THIS?
I CAN'T THINK WHY, BUT...
...I DON'T THINK OF HER LIKE THIS ANYMORE.
ALBUM
OH, THAT'S THE REPORTER, RIGHT?
YOU CAN TELL?
SHE'S SO COOL, HUH? SHE ALWAYS LOOKS SO SHARP AND SMART.
AND THEN SHE HAS THAT ADULT KIND OF SEX APPEAL, TOO, YOU KNOW.

THAT'S FUNNY.
WHAT COMES TO MY MIND IS A CLUMSY, LITTLE, HELPLESS...
REALLY.
YOU CAN'T FALL FOR A CLICHÉ LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW.
GUYS LIKE THAT ARE USUALLY WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING, YOU KNOW.
I SEE...
I SEE...
YOU'RE GOING TO STUDY ABROAD, RIGHT? YOU CAN'T TRUST PEOPLE LIKE THAT WHEN YOU'RE ALONE.
I SEE...
ガクン
I CAN'T SEEM TO GO FORWARD...
YOU FELL IN A DITCH!!

I'M SORRY...
...SENPAI...
CUTE!!
IF YOU STAY WITH ME UNTIL I'M SOBER...
...I CAN TAKE YOU HOME IN MY CAR.
WHOOAA!
BIG BROTHER?!
I WAS THE WOLF!!
ALL THIS TIME, I NEVER REALIZED IT!
HE'S JUST AS WEIRD AS ALWAYS.


IWAYA-SAN...
...FORGAVE ME THEN, TOO, DIDN'T SHE?
ALBUM
WHEN WAS IT THAT YOU SAID...
...BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES ARE EASY TO BREAK? SO...
...GENTLY, GENTLY, WITHOUT TOUCHING THEM...
...I LOCK THEM AWAY.

WHEN I WAS A NEWBIE, MY BOSS YELLED AT ME A LOT.
HE SAID THAT THE ARTICLES I WROTE WERE TOO SELF-RIGHTEOUS.
HE TOLD ME TO FIND A MORE AUTHENTIC VOICE.
OH, IT IS THE SAME WITH ME.
THEY ARE ALWAYS UPSET WITH ME, ALSO.
I WOULD REALLY LIKE...
...TO KEEP WORKING ONLY ON THINGS I CARE ABOUT, THOUGH.
SO SHE SAID, WHILE HER EYES LOOKED FAR AWAY...
SHE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL.
PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME AND MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP.

THIS IS HASUMI.
IT MUST BE HARD, WORKING SO LATE... TODAY I CAME TO TOKYO FOR WORK, AND I SAW YOU.
I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU'RE LOOKING WELL.
I KNOW IT'S OUT OF THE BLUE, BUT...THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU ABOUT.
IN MY MIND, YOU WERE ALWAYS A DITZY UNDERCLASS-MAN...
...BUT I THINK IT WAS JUST IN MY MIND, AND I NEVER KNEW THE REAL YOU.

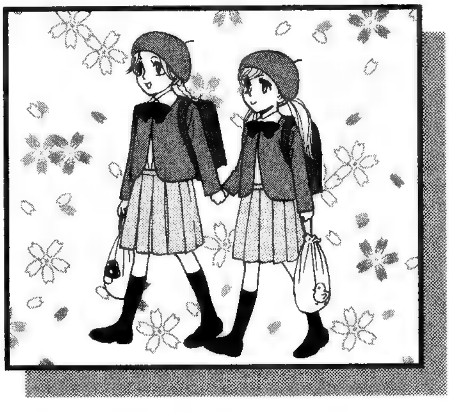
AND THEN...IN THE PAST, NO MATTER WHAT EXCUSES I MIGHT HAVE MADE, WHAT I DID TO YOU WAS PRETTY LOW.
BUT YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING AND YOU DIDN'T HOLD IT AGAINST ME WHEN WE MET AGAIN.
AND YOU DIDN'T BLAME ME WHEN WE BROKE UP.
I FINALLY UNDERSTAND...
...THAT WE HAVE TO PROTECT OUR BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES SO THEY DON'T BREAK.
THAT IS WHAT YOU...AND I...WANT.

I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR GIVING ME TREASURED MEMORIES OF LOVE.
PLEASE BE HAPPY.

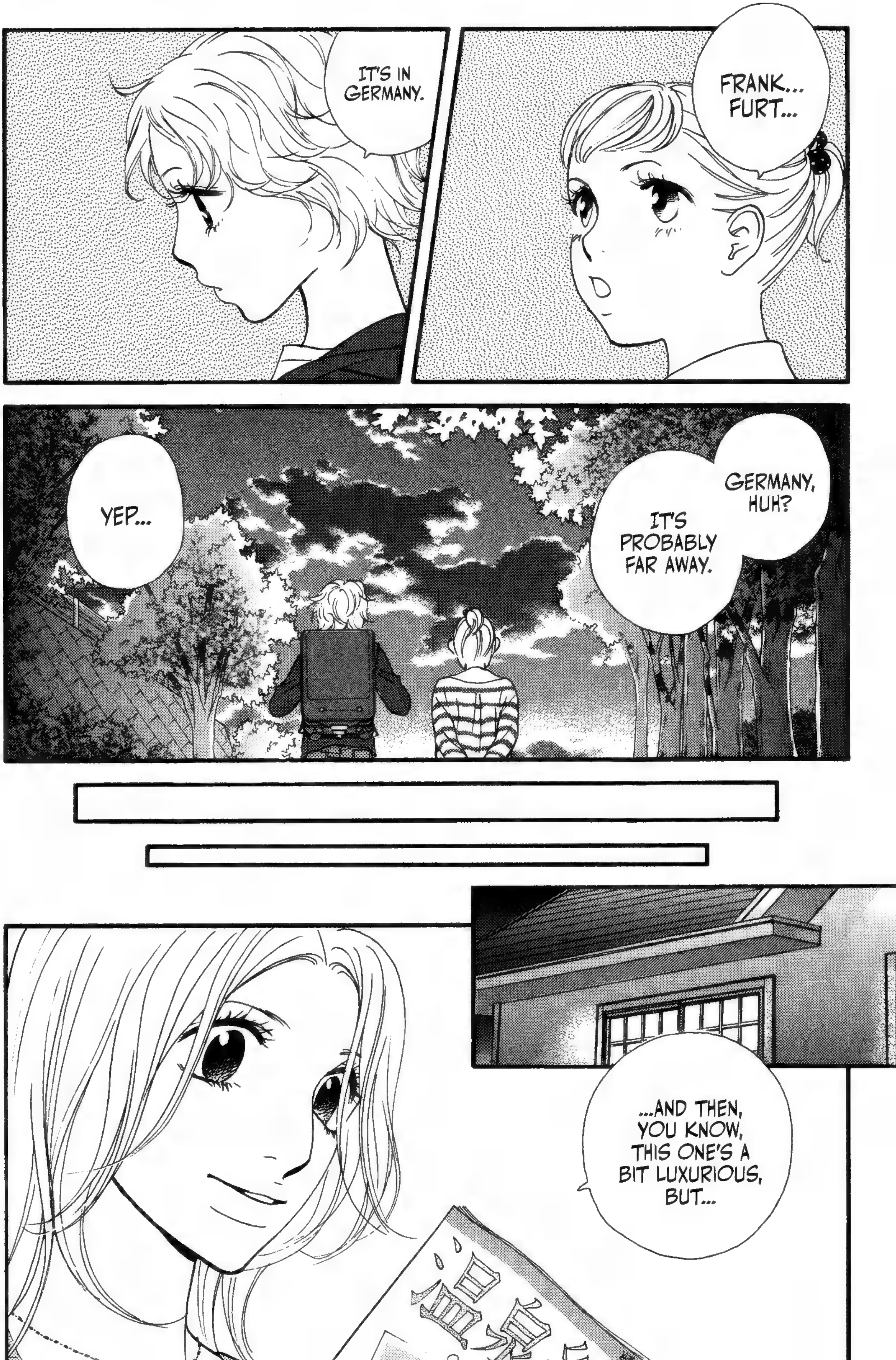
* A JAPANESE VEGETABLE IN THE CABBAGE FAMILY.

HUH? WHAT?
UH... NO.
YOU GO AHEAD.
NO, NO, PLEASE.
THEN... THAT IS...
DO YOU WANT TO GET MARRIED?
THANK YOU FOR THE TREASURES.
ALBUM
PLEASE, PLEASE BE HAPPY...

RULE 80: GIRLS



SAKURA!
AYAME-CHAN.
IS YOUR PIANO LESSON OVER?
YEP.
SORRY I'M LATE.
I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO TAKE THE EXAMS FOR N-JYO SCHOOL.
OH...
IT LOOKS LIKE I'M DEFINITELY GOING AWAY.
WHAT?
THEY'VE DECIDED TO MOVE?
PAPA AND MAMA SAY THAT A FAMILY SHOULD STAY TOGETHER.
THEY SAY IT'S FRANKFURT THIS TIME.


FRANK... FURT...
IT'S IN GERMANY.
GERMANY, HUH?
IT'S PROBABLY FAR AWAY.
YEP...
...AND THEN, YOU KNOW, THIS ONE'S A BIT LUXURIOUS, BUT...

...THE ROOM HAS AN OCEAN VIEW, AND LOOK.
THEY HAVE MOLTON BROWN COSMETICS. DON'T YOU THINK IT'S NICE?
YEAH, I GUESS SO, HUH?
BUT THE MEALS ARE EXTRAVAGANT AT THIS ONE, YOU KNOW.
ON THE OTHER HAND, DON'T YOU THINK YOU'D LIKE SNOW CRAB?
YEAH, I GUESS SO, HUH?
WHICH ONE WOULD YOU PICK, YURI-CHAN?
THIS ONE.
DON'T PICK IT RANDOMLY!
I PICKED ONES WITH SPAS AND ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT STUFF BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE THEM, YURI-CHAN.
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU FEELING WELL?
NOTHING'S WRONG, REALLY.

* JAPANESE PEOPLE DON'T EAT THAT! HE'S BEING SILLY.

BAROQUE IS ANOTHER OGAWA SERIES.

I WAS A DREAMY, BOOKISH KID AND SHE WAS A SOCIAL BUTTERFLY.
WE WEREN'T TOGETHER VERY MUCH DURING SCHOOL, BUT...
...WE COULD NEVER STOP TALKING ON THE WAY HOME, AND WE EVEN TOOK THE LONG WAY.
WHO DO YOU LIKE ON TV?
UMM, CAPTAIN QUATTRO!
THAT'S NOT A REAL PERSON, YOU KNOW.
EVER SINCE SHE WAS LITTLE, YURI-CHAN WAS CUTE, SO LOTS OF WEIRD PEOPLE APPROACHED HER.
YOU'RE CUTE, AREN'T YOU? DO YOU WANT TO BE ON TV?
I WORK IN THE TV BUSINESS, YOU KNOW.
IF YOU COME WITH ME, YOU'LL MEET TV AND MOVIE STARS.
IT'S JUST FOR A BIT, JUST FOR A LITTLE BIT.
REALLY! YOU JUST DON'T QUIT, DO YOU?
YURI-CHAN, DUCK!!

ARE YOU THE GRADE SCHOOL KID WHO CHASED THE BAD MAN AWAY?
COULD YOU TELL ME ABOUT THAT?
WHAT?
UMM...
WEREN'T YOU AFRAID? HOW DID YOU BEAT HIM UP?
UH... UMM...
YOU'RE HUGE! HOW TALL ARE YOU? ARE YOU REALLY A FIFTH-GRADER?
PAN IC
UM, UM...
JUST A MINUTE, OLD MAN!
DID YOU GET PERMISSION TO INTERVIEW HER?
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO JUST WALK ONTO SCHOOL GROUNDS, YOU KNOW!
FR OZEN
WHAT? UH, UMM...
PRINCIPAL! A WEIRD PERSON'S ASKING IF HE CAN TAKE PICTURES OF OUR PANTIES!
WHOOA! WHAT ARE YOU--?
I GET IT! I'LL GO! I'M GOING!

YURI-CHAN... THANK YOU...
AND DON'T COME BACK!
NOW, LET'S GO.
"NOW, LET'S GO."
HER HABIT WAS TO LIGHTLY PAT MY SHOULDER AND SAY THAT...
...EVER SINCE WE WERE CHILDREN.
FOR SOME REASON, I FEEL RELIEVED WHEN SHE DOES THAT.
MOMO SAYS HE HAS TO HAVE A DOUBLE BED, BUT...

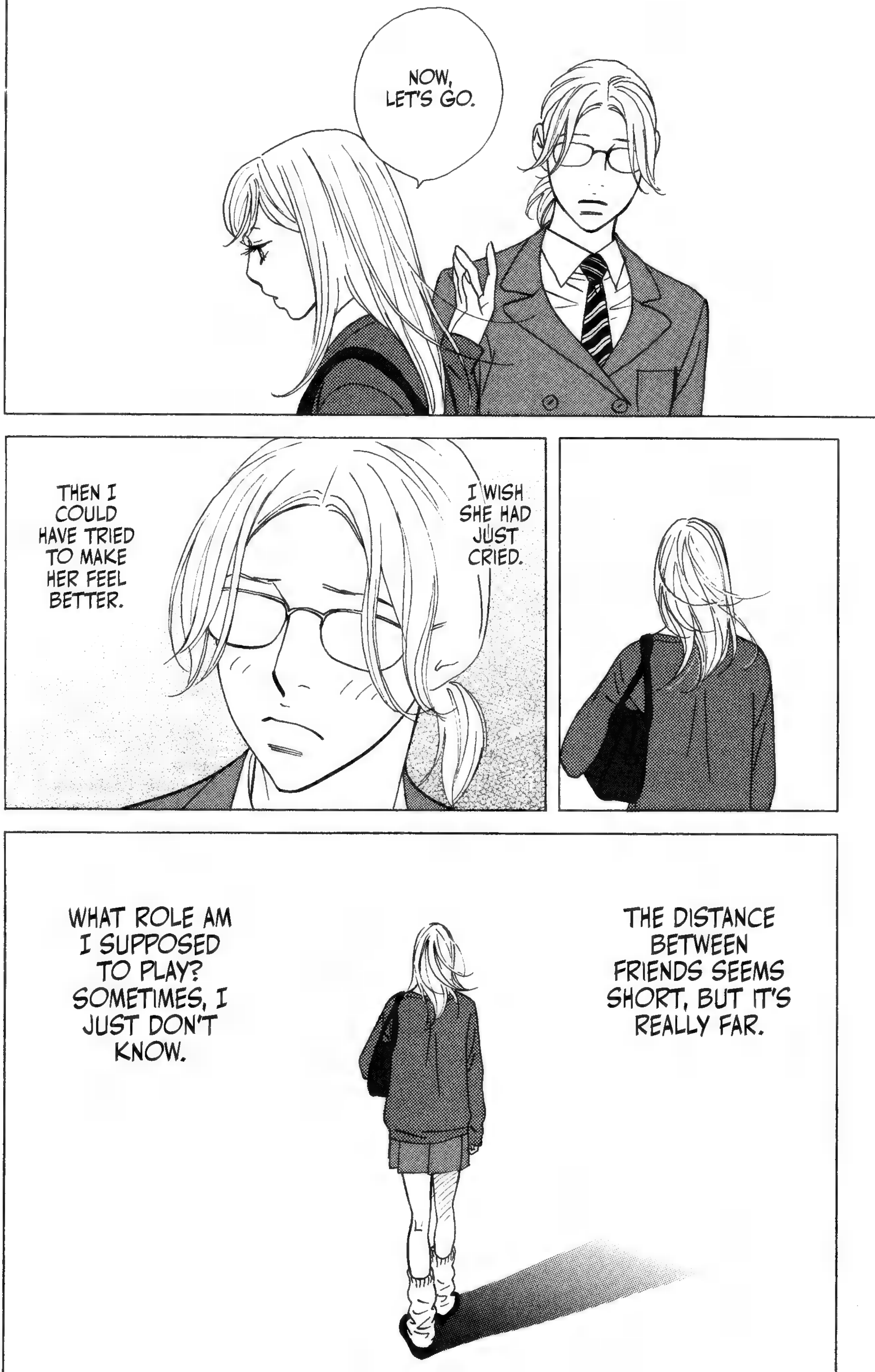
...ISN'T GETTING GOOD SLEEP IMPORTANT? ESPECIALLY SINCE HIS WORK IS SO PHYSICAL AND ALL.
THAT'S WHY I SAID IT'D BE BETTER IF WE SLEPT SEPARATELY.
BUT ONCE THAT KID FALLS ASLEEP, EVEN THUNDER DOESN'T WAKE HIM UP, RIGHT?
WELL, YEAH. IN FACT, HE MIGHT NOT EVEN WAKE UP IF A HELICOPTER LANDED ON THE ROOF.
HE DIDN'T WAKE UP EVEN WHEN I DID HIM UP IN FULL MAKEUP AND A DRESS.
HERE'S A PHOTO AS PROOF.
HE'S SO SEXY WHEN HE'S DRESSED THAT WAY THAT IT'S SCARY.
OH...IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE CALLING YOU EVERY DAY IF THINGS STAY THE WAY THEY ARE, YURI-CHAN.
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK THE PHONE BILL'S GOING TO BE?
WELL, THAT'S TRUE, BUT, YOU KNOW...
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, IT'S ALREADY PRETTY BAD.
YURI-CHAN, AREN'T YOU EVER LONELY AND INSECURE?
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER EVER SINCE I REMEMBER, RIGHT?
IT'S JUST MY POLICY NOT TO BE DEPENDENT ON PEOPLE LIKE THAT.
I'LL BE FINE IF I'M EVER ALONE.

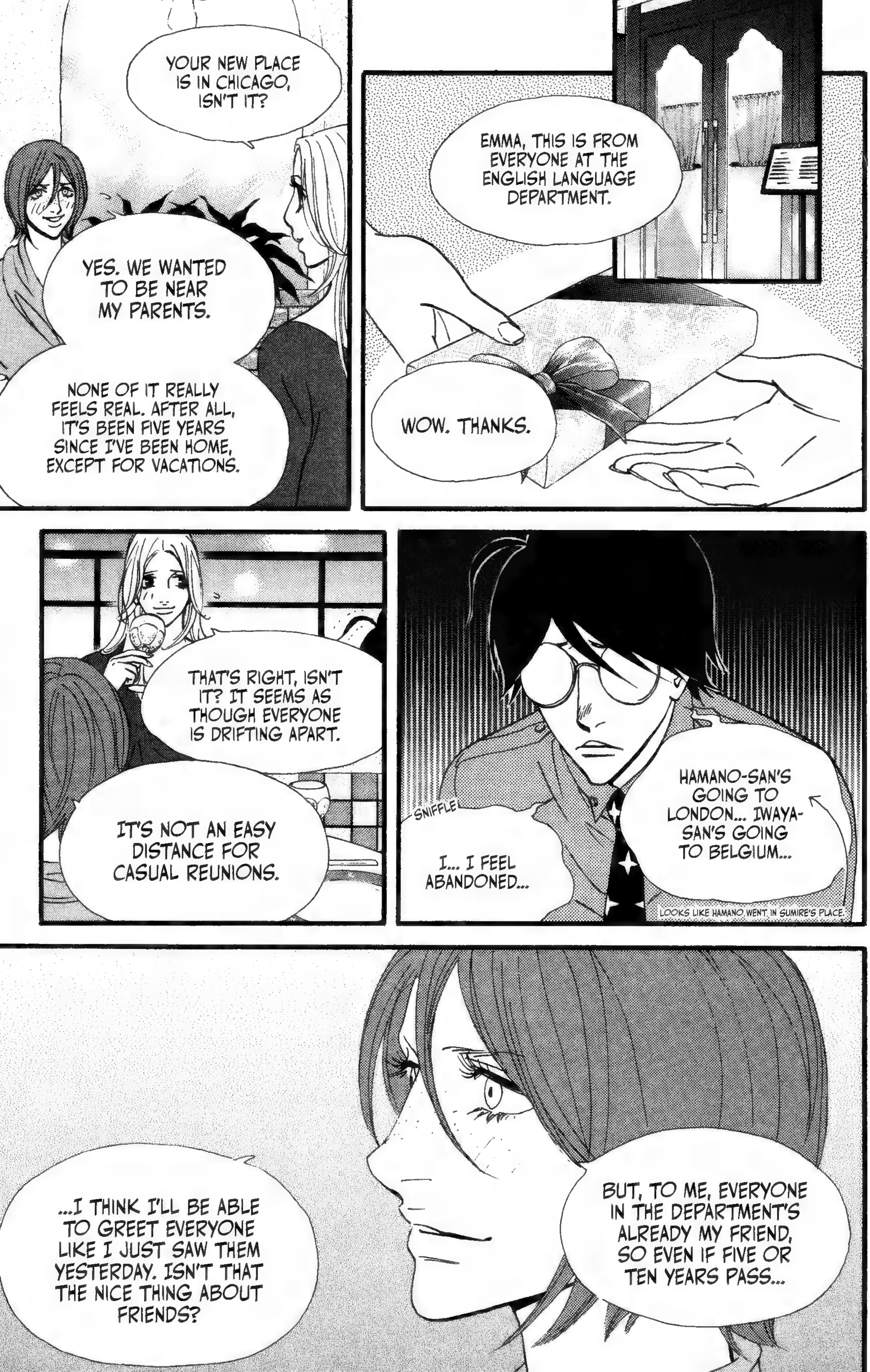
WE JUST HAVE A DIFFERENT MENTALITY.
ピンポーン
HM?
FLIP
DISNEYLAND WITH SUMIRE
WELCOME HOME.
I'M HOME.

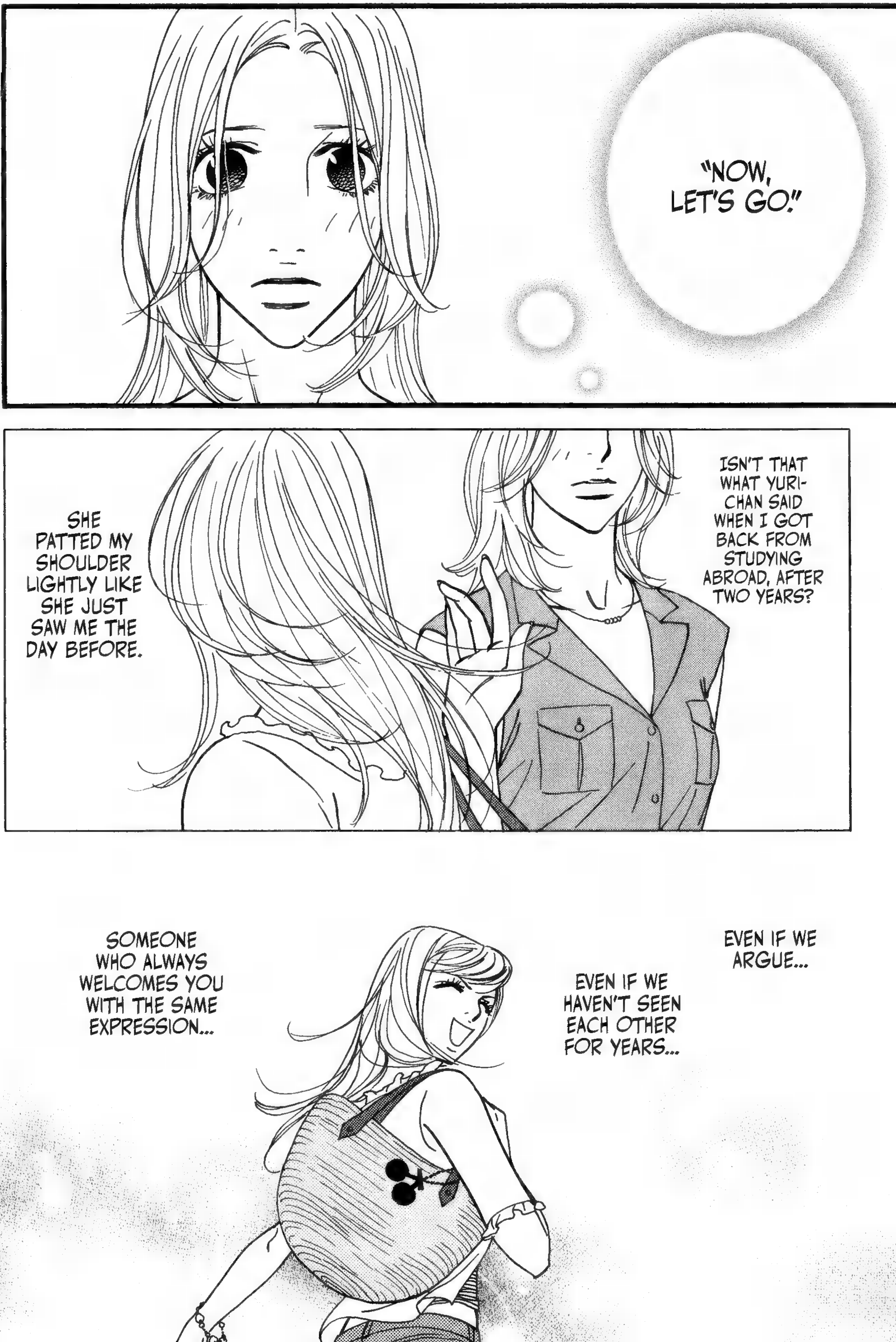
ぱた ぱた
WAIT A MINUTE, AND I'LL GET THE BATH READY FOR YOU.
OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO HURRY.
HUH?
PAPA, LOOK! LOOK!
HMM?
とてててて
SUMII-CHAN GAVE IT.
※SUMIRE
OH? GOLDFISH, EH?
UM, YOU KNOW, THIS IS FIE-CHAN AND...
※FILLET
...THIS IS ROSU-CHAN.
※ROAST
I SEE. DINNER, EH?
RAN, IS MAMA FEELING BAD?
?
SUPER HAPPY.
きんぎょのエサ
WHEN I COME HOME...
...THERE ARE ALWAYS FLOWERS AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE, BUT NOT TODAY.

MAYBE IT'S REALLY NOT SUCH A BIG DEAL...
DISNEYLAND
...THAT I'M LEAVING... YURI-CHAN.
WE JUST HAVE A DIFFERENT MENTALITY... EH?
HARSH AS USUAL...
BUT MAYBE SHE'S LIKE THAT BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T WANT TO GET HURT.
HE'S DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE OTHER ONES.
HE'S REALLY PURE. WHEN OUR EYES MEET, HE LOOKS DOWN.

HE SAYS HIS FATHER'S SICK, AND THEY DON'T HAVE MUCH MONEY.
OUR DATES ARE ALWAYS DUTCH, BUT I THOUGHT MAYBE THAT'S KIND OF NICE, TOO.
HOW'D YOU GET HER?
EASY. I JUST PRETENDED TO BE PURE AND INNOCENT.
SERIOUSLY? YOU'RE EVIL.
YURI-CHAN!
WELL...IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME, DOESN'T IT?


NOW, LET'S GO.
I WISH SHE HAD JUST CRIED.
THEN I COULD HAVE TRIED TO MAKE HER FEEL BETTER.
THE DISTANCE BETWEEN FRIENDS SEEMS SHORT, BUT IT'S REALLY FAR.
WHAT ROLE AM I SUPPOSED TO PLAY? SOMETIMES, I JUST DON'T KNOW.


EMMA, THIS IS FROM EVERYONE AT THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT.
WOW. THANKS.
YOUR NEW PLACE IS IN CHICAGO, ISN'T IT?
YES. WE WANTED TO BE NEAR MY PARENTS.
NONE OF IT REALLY FEELS REAL. AFTER ALL, IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE I'VE BEEN HOME, EXCEPT FOR VACATIONS.
HAMANO-SAN'S GOING TO LONDON... IWAYA-SAN'S GOING TO BELGIUM...
SNIFFLE
I... I FEEL ABANDONED...
LOOKS LIKE HAMANO WENT IN SUMIRE'S PLACE.
THAT'S RIGHT, ISN'T IT? IT SEEMS AS THOUGH EVERYONE IS DRIFTING APART.
IT'S NOT AN EASY DISTANCE FOR CASUAL REUNIONS.
BUT, TO ME, EVERYONE IN THE DEPARTMENT'S ALREADY MY FRIEND, SO EVEN IF FIVE OR TEN YEARS PASS...
...I THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO GREET EVERYONE LIKE I JUST SAW THEM YESTERDAY. ISN'T THAT THE NICE THING ABOUT FRIENDS?


"NOW, LET'S GO!"
ISN'T THAT WHAT YURI-CHAN SAID WHEN I GOT BACK FROM STUDYING ABROAD, AFTER TWO YEARS?
SHE PATTED MY SHOULDER LIGHTLY LIKE SHE JUST SAW ME THE DAY BEFORE.
EVEN IF WE ARGUE...
EVEN IF WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER FOR YEARS...
SOMEONE WHO ALWAYS WELCOMES YOU WITH THE SAME EXPRESSION...

THAT'S RIGHT...
THAT'S A FRIEND'S...
MY...
...BIGGEST ROLE.
TEARY-EYED.
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
JUST NOW...I THINK I HAD AN AMAZING HALLUCINATION...
THEY CONFIRMED OUR RESERVATIONS AT THE HOTEL, SO I'LL GIVE YOU THE INFORMATION, OKAY?
OH, THANKS.
BUT YOU KNOW, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, IT'S ALL RIGHT TO CANCEL, OKAY?
WHAT?
YOU'RE BUSY GETTING RAN-CHAN READY TO START SCHOOL AND STUFF, RIGHT? SORRY, I DIDN'T THINK.

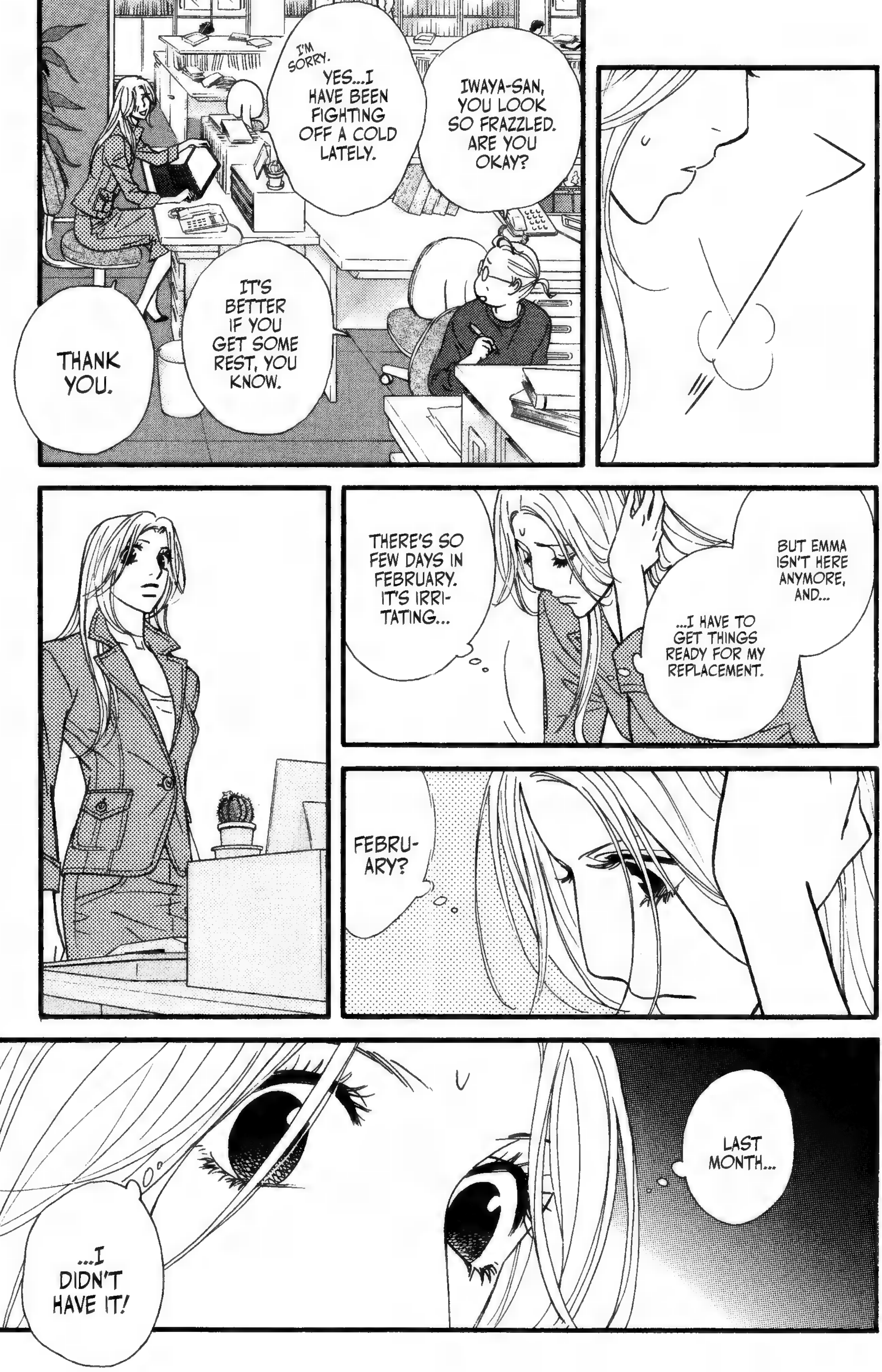
COME TO THINK OF IT, WE DON'T HAVE TO FORCE OURSELVES TO MAKE MEMORIES. AFTER ALL, WE HAVE ENOUGH MEMORIES TO START A STORE.
I JUST GOT ALL SENTIMENTAL BY MYSELF, AND...
...WELL, IT'S WHAT I ALWAYS DO ANYWAY, BUT, HA HA.
AND THEN I'LL TRY NOT TO CALL YOU MUCH WHEN I GO OVER THERE.
I DEPEND ON YOU TOO MUCH, YURI-CHAN. IT MUST HAVE BEEN A PAIN, HUH?
AFTER ALL, WE EACH HAVE TO BE INDEPENDENT IN A FRIENDSHIP, RIGHT?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE NEVER GOING TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN AND--
WHY?
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THOSE THINGS?
SNIFF

YOU'RE MAKING ME FEEL BAD.
WHEN YOU'RE NOT HERE...
...OF COURSE I'LL BE LONELY!

YOU SHITTY KID! GIVE ME BACK MY SUMIRE!!
うわああぁーん
Y-YURI-CHAN?
IF YOU CAN'T MAKE HER HAPPY, THEN I'M GOING TO CATCH YOU AND TAKE YOU TO THE POUND!!
I'M GOING TO BELGIUM, TOO!
BUT THAT'S--! YURI-CHAN!
WHAT ABOUT SHINICHI-SAN AND RAN-CHAN?!
WAAAH! WAAH! WAAH!
M-MAMA, DON'T CRY. PLEASE DON'T CRY.
I KISS IT AND MAKE IT BETTER!
SNIFFLE
CALL... CALL ME...
SNIFFLE
YEAH, I PROMISE I WILL.
EVERY DAY...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CALL EVERY DAY.
UH... YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, HUH...?
I KISS IT BETTER!

SHE DOUBTS MORE THAN OTHER PEOPLE BECAUSE SHE'S PURE AND FALLS FOR THINGS EASILY.
SUPER CHEAP!
GUCCI
SHE ARMS HERSELF WITH SHARP WORDS BECAUSE SHE HURTS EASILY.
I'M SORRY. I'M ALWAYS LATE TO UNDERSTAND THINGS...
...BUT I UNDERSTAND MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE...
...BECAUSE WE'RE FRIENDS.

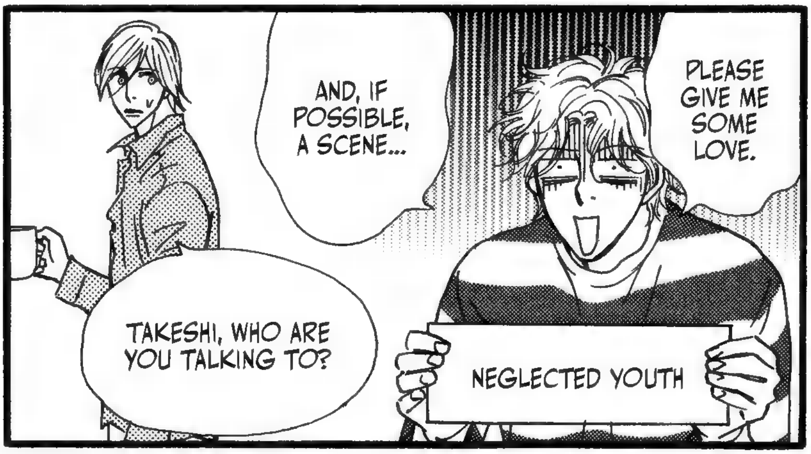
SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS.
I THOUGHT IT WAS UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO ACT SO EMOTIONAL.
OH YEAH?
THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S LIKE WHEN...
LIKE WHEN YOU FOUND OUT YOU WERE PREGNANT WITH RAN.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN SO EMOTIONAL SINCE THEN.
......


IWAYA-SAN, YOU LOOK SO FRAZZLED. ARE YOU OKAY?
YES...I HAVE BEEN FIGHTING OFF A COLD LATELY.
I'M SORRY.
IT'S BETTER IF YOU GET SOME REST, YOU KNOW.
THANK YOU.
BUT EMMA ISN'T HERE ANYMORE, AND...
...I HAVE TO GET THINGS READY FOR MY REPLACEMENT.
THERE'S SO FEW DAYS IN FEBRUARY. IT'S IRRI-TATING...
FEBRU-ARY?
LAST MONTH...
...I DIDN'T HAVE IT!

HERE IT IS.
FRANKFURT.
IT IS FAR, HUH?
YEP.
BUT IT'S CLOSE TO BRUSSELS, WHERE I LIVED WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
EVEN IF YOU'RE FAR AWAY...
...YOU AND I ARE STILL FRIENDS, SAKURA.
YEP.
I KNOW.

OH!
REALLY, AYAME!
DON'T JUST TAKE MY GLOBE LIKE THAT!
THAT'S THE SOUVENIR PAPA BROUGHT ME FROM EUROPE AND IT'S EXPENSIVE, YOU KNOW!
RAN, YOU'RE SO STINGY!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
EVEN IF WE'RE FAR APART...
RAN, AYAME! BE QUIET!
...WHEN I SEE YOU AGAIN, YOU'LL STILL BE THE SAME YOU.
WAAH! MAMA!

BECAUSE I HAVE YOU, AND YOU NEVER CHANGE...


PLEASE GIVE ME SOME LOVE.
AND, IF POSSIBLE, A SCENE...
TAKESHI, WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
NEGLECTED YOUTH

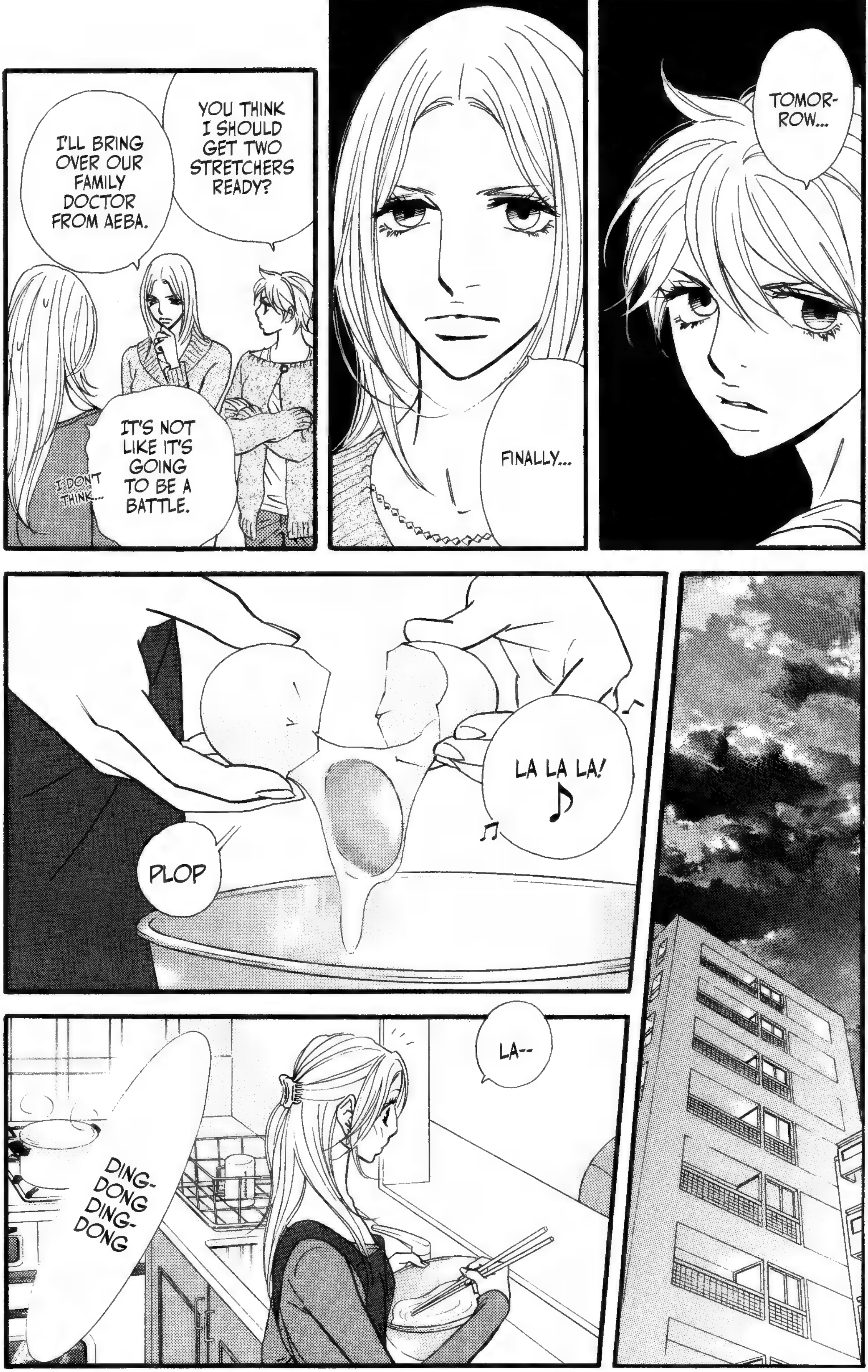
RULE 81: NOTHING HAPPENS

THE IWAYA RESIDENCE
TA-DAA!
CUTE, AIN'T SHE?
OH, HOW CUTE. ♡
THEY SAY IF YOU'VE GOT A STERN FACE WHILE YOU'RE PREGNANT, IT'LL BE A BOY, YOU KNOW.
BUT SHE BEAT ALL BETS AND TURNED OUT TO BE A GIRL!
SHE'S NOT AS SMALL AS I'D HEARD.
THAT SO? SHE WAS REAL CLOSE TO GETTING THE INCUBATOR, THOUGH.
IT'S ALL RIGHT AS LONG AS SHE'S HEALTHY.

I'M SO SAWWY! WHAT A HOWWIBLE MOMMY!
I'LL GIVE YOU SOME MILK AND THEN IT'S NAPTIME WITH YOUR WIDDLE BLANKEY!
HER FACE HAS BEEN HORRIBLE LIKE THAT FROM BIRTH.
WHAT'D YOU SAY, YOU ROTTEN HUSBAND?!
HE GAVE UP THE DORKY HAIRSTYLE.
AKANE-SAN, PLEASE DO NOT USE SUCH LANGUAGE IN FRONT OF CHILDREN.
AH, SO WHEN THERE'S WORK TO DO, SHE AIN'T SO CUTE.
I HEAR THAT GRANDFATHER VISITED YOU WHILE YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL, AND IT WAS A BIG DEAL.
YEAH. HE PUSHED HIS WAY IN EVERY DAY.
IT'S NOT JUST THAT HIS FACE SCRUNCHES UP...
YOU REALLY DID IT THIS TIME, DIDN'T YOU, AKANEEEE?
SHE'S SO CUUUTE! SO CUUUTE!

CAN I HOLD HER FOR A BIT?
WHAT?
YOU REALLY AREN'T SUPPOSED TO, BUT...
BURP
SHE'S SO CUUUTE! SO CUUUTE!
UH, WAIT! DON'T KISS HER AND STUFF!
SHE'LL CATCH GERMS FROM YOUR MOUTH, YOU OLD FART!
MMMWAH!
GRAND-FATHER DID THAT?!
HE MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY HAPPY TO HAVE A GREAT-GRANDCHILD.
TO BE HONEST, IT WAS A PAIN.
ANNOYING.
SUCK
SUCK

IS SOMETHING WRONG, SUMIRE-SAN?
UH, NO.
NOTHING...
SO, HAVE YOU DECIDED ON A NAME?
OH, YEAH.
WASABI.
IF YOU JUST LOOK AT THE KANJI, IT LOOKS LIKE IT SHOULD BE MY KID, HUH?
ROCK VALLEY MOUNTAIN HOLLYHOCK.
JUST THE KANJI, EH?
I THINK IT MAY BE BEST FOR YOU TO THINK THIS OVER AGAIN.
OH... I HAVE TO GET HOME SOON.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SAY HI TO GRANDFATHER?
HE'LL BE HOME SOON, YOU KNOW.
MOMO'S COMING HOME ON VACATION TODAY.
WE'LL BE HERE TOMORROW TO SAY HELLO.


TOMOR-ROW...
FINALLY...
YOU THINK I SHOULD GET TWO STRETCHERS READY?
I'LL BRING OVER OUR FAMILY DOCTOR FROM AEBA.
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE A BATTLE.
I DON'T THINK...
LA LA LA! ♪
PLOP
LA--
DING-DONG DING-DONG

OH YEAH, HE DOESN'T HAVE THE KEY ANYMORE.
COMING ...
CLICK
I'VE SO WANTED TO SEE YOU, SUGAR BABY!
WHOA!
WHY DID YOU STEP ASIDE?
SORRY... IT WAS JUST A REFLEX...
I ENDED UP PROTECTING IT...WITHOUT THINKING.

THIS DINNER'S THE BEST!
SUMIRE-CHAN'S THE BEST!
BOTH ARE THE BEST!
ME = DINNER?
OOF! I CAN'T EAT ANY MORE...
DON'T WORRY. WE DON'T EVEN HAVE ONE GRAIN OF RICE LEFT.
AMAZING.
EMPTY
SATISFIED
UMM, YOU KNOW, MOMO...
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...

WHAT'S... THAT?
OH, THIS? A SOUVENIR FOR YOUR GRANDFATHER. ♡
I DIDN'T WANT IT TO BREAK, SO I DIDN'T MAIL IT, BUT IT WAS CRAZY HEAVY.
I SEE... THANKS... CHOCOLATE WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH BETTER...
IT'S A REPLICA OF MANNEKIN PIS.
AND THEN, THIS IS FOR YOU, SUMIRE-CHAN.
WHAT?
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS? IT'S SO PRETTY!
IT'S A REAL RUBY.
THAT'S YOUR BIRTHSTONE, RIGHT, SUMIRE-CHAN?
WOULD A DIAMOND ONE BE BETTER?
N-NO! NO!
ちうっ

THEN, FORMAL-LY...
...PLEASE MARRY ME.
YES...
MMM...
WHAT? I DIDN'T HEAR YOU.
STUPID...
THIS FEELS LIKE A SUPER-LUCKY DAY. ♡♡

UNFORGIVABLE!!!
AN OLD-STYLE GAG
I FELT SORRY FOR YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE AN AGING SPINSTER...
...AND I DIDN'T INTERFERE BECAUSE YOU SAID YOU HAD SOMEONE SPECIAL!
NOW, OUT OF THE BLUE, YOU BRING SOME LOW-CLASS STRANGER HERE?!
YOU THINK I CAN GIVE MY GRANDDAUGHTER TO SOME MALE BALLERINA?!

GRAND-FATHER, UMM...HE'S A CLASSICAL DANCER--
INSOLENCE! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR EXCUSES!
NO...IT'S NOT AN EXCUSE...
IF YOU ARE DETERMINED TO DO THIS NO MATTER WHAT...
...THEN DON'T SHOW YOUR FACE TO ME AGAIN!
GRAND-FATHER!
I GUESS I GOT YOUR GRANDFATHER MAD AFTER ALL, DIDN'T I?
THAT'S OKAY... I FIGURED IT'D GO LIKE THAT ANYWAY.
NOT TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT, BUT I'M SORRY GRANDFATHER SAID SUCH RUDE THINGS.
NO, NO.
I WAS JUST A BIT SCARED...
I FAINTED AND DON'T REALLY REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED ANYWAY...
......?
SUMIRE-CHAN?

DON'T TURN AROUND.
WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL, RUN AND TAKE A LEFT AT THE NEXT CORNER.
BUT WHAT--?
RUN!
SHIT!
LOST THEM...
WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU EXPECT OF OUR MISS?
YOU WERE FOLLOWED?
THAT MUST MEAN...
...THAT GRANDFATHER HAS LET THE ASSASSINS LOOSE.

ASSASSINS?!
Cool Biz
LONG AGO, GRANDFATHER OPENED A DOJO FOR THE IWAYA TECHNIQUE, COMPRISED OF HIS OWN ARRANGEMENT OF ANCIENT MARTIAL ARTS.
HE HAS ORGANIZED THE STUDENTS FROM HIS DOJO INTO AN ELITE FORCE...
UMM...IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO INTERRUPT?
BUT WHAT FOR?
I HAVE COME HERE FOR NO OTHER REASON BUT TO TELL YOU...
IGNORED?!
...THAT GRANDFATHER HAS SECLUDED HIMSELF IN THE HONMARU.*
* A HONMARU IS THE CENTRAL KEEP IN A JAPANESE CASTLE.

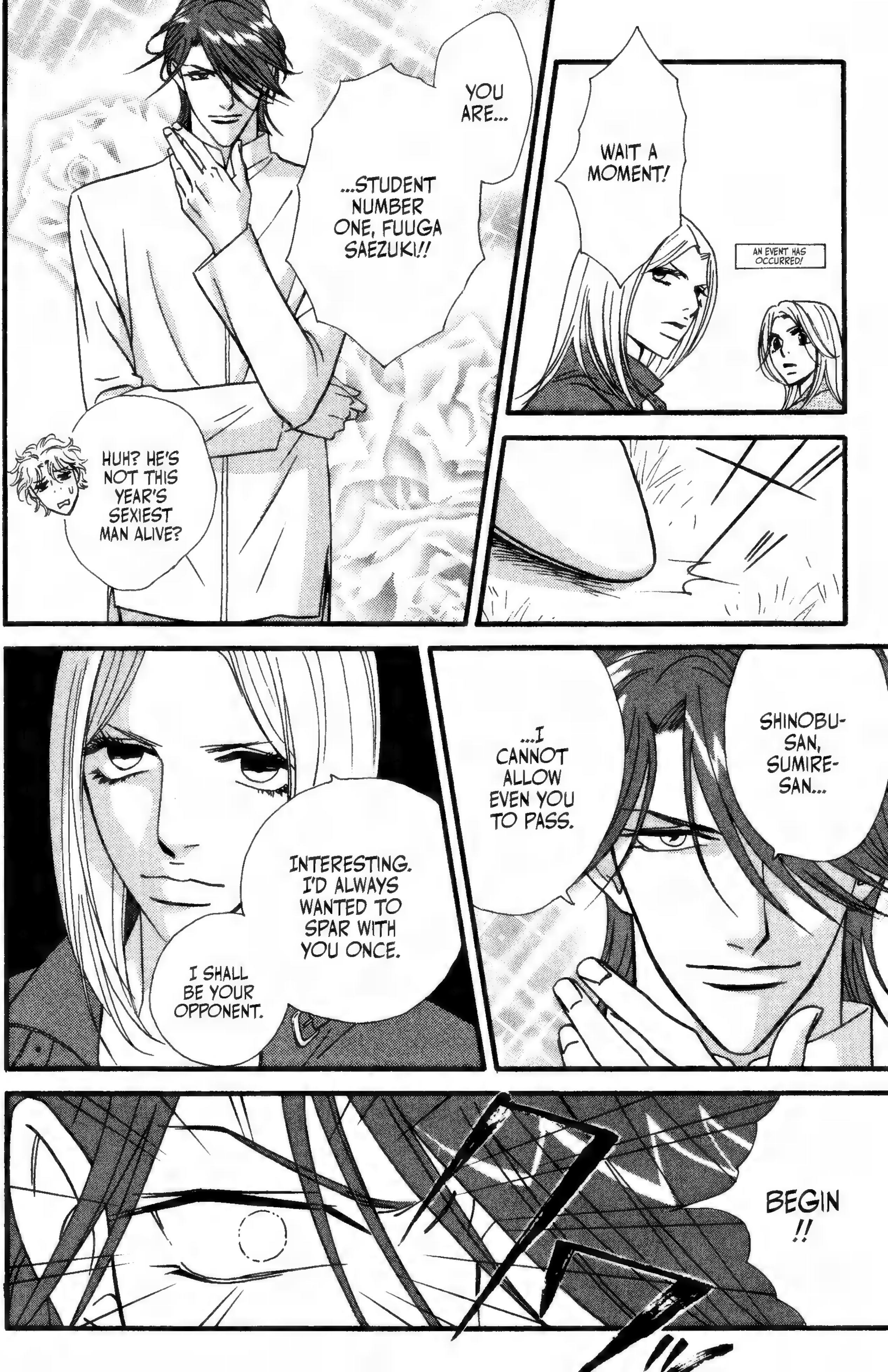
IN THE HONMARU?!
THIS CONVERSATION ALREADY MAKES NO SENSE...
SHE MEANS THE STOREHOUSE BEHIND THE MAIN WING OF THE HOUSE.
UNDER THE STOREHOUSE, THERE'S A SAFE AND AN EMERGENCY SHELTER EQUIPPED WITH THE LATEST SECURITY SYSTEMS.
IT'S THE HEART OF THE IWAYA RESIDENCE.
I DON'T THINK THERE'S A "HEART" TO MOST NORMAL HOUSES...
THE UNDERGROUND SAFE CONTAINS NOT ONLY CASH, BUT ALSO IMPORTANT FAMILY DOCUMENTS.
AND THEY SAY THERE IS ALSO TREASURE, WHICH WE RECEIVED FROM THE AEBA FAMILY A LONG TIME AGO.
TREASURE...
ADRENALINE

BUT THAT WAS A LIE. ALL I FOUND WAS A SOUVENIR VASE.
IT HAS "ETERNITY" WRITTEN ON IT.
AWW...
YOU ENJOYED THAT, DIDN'T YOU?
IT SEEMS HE WON'T COME OUT UNLESS YOU TWO GIVE UP ON YOUR MARRIAGE.
BUT THAT'S--
OH! I KNOW!
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DIG HIM UP AND DRIVE A STAKE THROUGH HIS HEART, RIGHT?
HE'S NOT A VAMPIRE, YOU KNOW!
KNOWING GRANDFATHER, HE REALLY MAY STAY AND JOIN THE UNDEAD...
UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES...

THEY FORMED A BARRICADE.
ANY ONE WOULD BE HARD TO FIGHT BY HIMSELF.
OUTTA THE WAY, YOU!
I'LL KILL YOU!

HEY! HEY! OUTTA THE WAY!
EEK!
I HAVE A BABY! I'VE GOT A LOT OF PENT-UP STRESS!
YOU MUST NOT DO ANYTHING LIKE THIS DURING THE POSTPARTUM PERIOD. PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS AT HOME.
SUMIRE-SAN, NOW!
HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?
UMM...WE'RE GOING TO TALK THINGS OVER WITH HIM, RIGHT?
THIS WILL END IN A PEACEFUL MANNER, RIGHT?

* ANKODAMAS ARE BALLS OF SWEET RED BEAN PASTE COVERED IN AGAR GEL. FUNAWA IS A REAL SWEET SHOP.


WAIT A MOMENT!
AN EVENT HAS OCCURRED!
YOU ARE...
...STUDENT NUMBER ONE, FUUGA SAEZUKI!!
HUH? HE'S NOT THIS YEAR'S SEXIEST MAN ALIVE?
SHINOBU-SAN, SUMIRE-SAN...
...I CANNOT ALLOW EVEN YOU TO PASS.
INTERESTING. I'D ALWAYS WANTED TO SPAR WITH YOU ONCE.
I SHALL BE YOUR OPPONENT.
BEGIN !!

LET'S LEAVE THIS BATTLE TO THE DEATH TO MY BIG SISTER AND GO.
WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT
WHAT?!
ISN'T HE A MORE IMPORTANT CHARACTER THAN THAT?
NOT REALLY.
THIS MANGA IS FULL OF BEAUTIFUL CHARACTERS WITH DIFFICULT NAMES.
BATTLE WON!
WAIT A MINUTE, SUMIRE!
FATHER?!
TADASHI IWAYA, 57 (FIRST APPEARANCE)

I'M SORRY, BUT I'M IN THE DELICATE POSITION OF BEING THE SON-IN-LAW WHO MARRIED INTO THIS FAMILY.
IF YOUR GRANDFATHER ORDERS IT, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BE YOUR FINAL OBSTACLE--
MOTHER!
AYAKA IWAYA, 58
HA HA HA HA!
HOW STUPID. HE'S SUCH A SHRINKING VIOLET.
THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD BEAT YOU, SUMIRE.
EVEN WHEN YOU'RE PREGNANT... RIGHT?
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SUMIRE-SAN?

WHAT?!
WHAT?!
SHE'S SURPRISED.
PREGNANT, YOU SAY?!
ガシッ
ぶる
ぶる
ぶる

ぱぁあーっ
DEEELIGHTED
GRAND-FATHER...
IS THAT SO?! YOU MADE A BABY! YOU DID IT!
IS IT A BOY? GIRL? OOH, I WANT TO HOLD IT NOW!
GOUDA-KUN.
YES?!
AS YOU CAN SEE, SUMIRE IS A DELICATE, WEAK AND UNRELIABLE YOUNG GIRL...
ACTUALLY, I THINK SHE'S VERY STRONG.
AT LEAST IN MARTIAL ARTS.
...AND SHE NEEDS SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF HER. CAN I COUNT ON YOU TO DO THIS?

THEY'RE ALL BALLET MAGAZINES.

BUT HOW DID YOUR MOTHER KNOW?
SHE KIND OF FIGURED WHEN I TALKED TO HER YESTERDAY AND THE DAY BEFORE... SHE SAID.
WOW.
I'M THE ONE WHO DID IT, BUT I HAD NO IDEA.
YOU DIDN'T DO IT ALONE...
CAFE SYMPA
SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE THERE WHEN I DID ALL THAT KNOCKING...
...BUT IT LOOKED LIKE YOUR MOM LIKED IT, TOO, SO THAT'S OKAY, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK TO IT!
......
BUT...
...WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING?

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU DIDN'T WANT IT.
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THOUGHT, YOU'RE TOTALLY WRONG.
!
CAN YOU FEEL IT?
MY HEART'S BEEN POUNDING THIS WHOLE TIME.
I FEEL LIKE THE HERO OF AN ADVENTURE GAME.
I FEEL LIKE I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING.
LIKE I CAN DO ANYTHING FOR YOU AND THAT LITTLE LIFE, SUMIRE.
YOU USUALLY CAN'T FEEL LIKE THIS UNLESS YOU'RE ON SOMETHING, YOU KNOW.

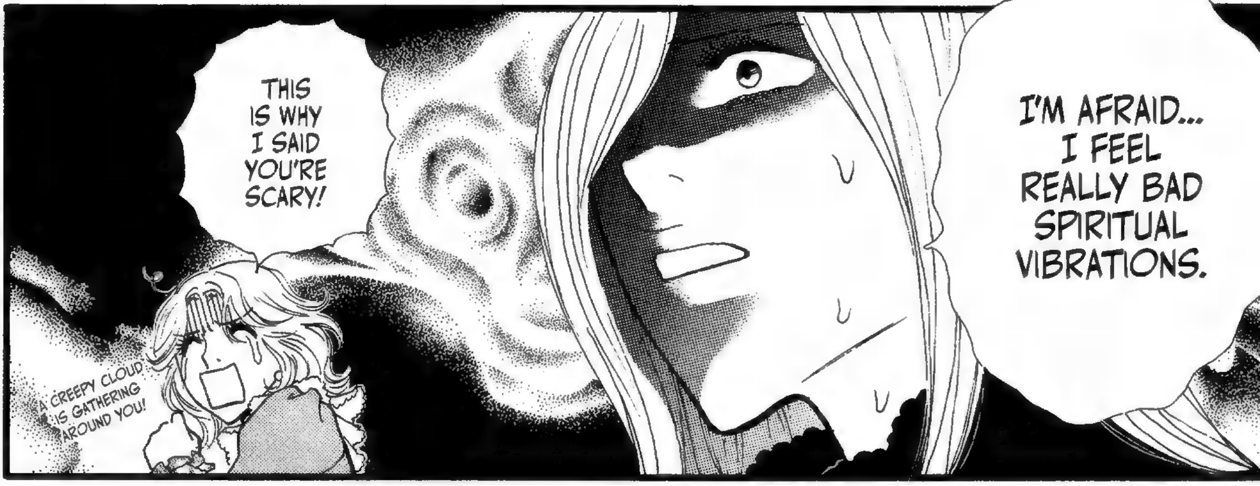
THIS MOMENT ...
I LOVE YOU.
...IS JUST ONE OF THE MILLIONS OF INSIGNIFICANT THINGS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD...
...BUT I'M GRATEFUL FROM THE DEPTHS OF MY SOUL...
...FOR THIS SMALL JOY THAT I SHARE WITH YOU.
EWW, THEY'RE KISSING.
THEY'RE CRAZY IN LOVE, YOU KNOW.

LAST RULE: OUR FUTURE

CHAPTER 1: THE BRIDE WHO DISAPPEARED

NOT FEELING WELL? MAYBE HER MORNING SICKNESS IS STILL BAD.
NO...SHE SAID THAT STOPPED SOMETIME LAST WEEK.
IT SEEMED LIKE SHE MIGHT HAVE A BIT OF A FEVER.
BUT SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO STAY AWAY FROM DRUGS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
......
WHAT'S WRONG, SAYAKA?
SOME-HOW...
...I'M GETTING A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS DAY.
STOP! IT FEELS LIKE A DISASTER'S GOING TO HAPPEN WHEN YOU SAY IT!
SHE IS NOT HERE, EITHER.
WE CAN'T FIND SUMIRE-SAN ANYWHERE!

WHY BORSCHT?
YOU SHOULD TRY ASKING.
THEY GET THIS EXPRESSION LIKE YOU'RE ASKING THE WEIRDEST QUESTION IN THE WORLD.
MAYBE SHE'S IN THE CAN? AFTER ALL, SHE GETS A STOMACHACHE WHEN SHE'S NERVOUS.
I HAVE CHECKED ALL THE RESTROOMS.
SHE WASN'T IN THE TRUNK SHE USED TO HIDE IN AFTER SHE GOT IN TROUBLE WHEN SHE WAS LITTLE, EITHER.
I THINK SHE'S TOO BIG TO FIT IN THERE ANYMORE ANYWAY.



CHAPTER 2: *PETS* LIKE ME

マンション内であやしい人を見かけたら
JUST WHEN HASUMI-SENPAI ASKED ME OUT TO DINNER, TOO...
WHAT SHOULD I DO IF HE GOES OUT WITH ANOTHER GIRL INSTEAD?
MAYBE HE'S TIRED OF ME ABOUT NOW ANYWAY.
I CAN'T EVEN STAY THE NIGHT BECAUSE I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF MOMO.
WELCOME HOME!
WHOA!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU NOT TO TACKLE ME BEFORE YOU GET IT?!
WELCOME! WELCOME! WELCOME!
I'M STARVING!!!

ALL RIGHT!
OH!
Y-YOU DESTROYED ME WITH NO MERCY OR EMOTION...
YOU'RE INHUMAN!
IT'S NO FUN IF I HOLD BACK, NOW IS IT?
OKAY, "SILENT HELL" IS NEXT, LIKE YOU PROMISED.
WHAT?
UMM...MY EYES ARE KIND OF TIRED...AND I HAVE TO GET UP EARLY TOMORROW...
NOT FAIR! I BET YOU'RE SCARED, SUMIRE-CHAN!
I AM NOT SCARED!
HEY, YOU LAMER, LAMER, LAME-ERRR!
WHO'S A LAMER?
ARGH... URGH...
OH, I FEEL LIKE I'VE GOTTEN RID OF SOME STRESS. ♡
I'M SO HAPPY TO HAVE BEEN OF USE TO YOU...

COME HERE, MOMO. ♡
PAT PAT
WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING...
...A YEAR FROM NOW?
WILL SOMEONE YOU LOVE...
...BE BY YOUR SIDE?

CAN I CHANGE THE CHANNEL?
OKAY.
LET'S BEGIN, BECAUSE THE FUTURE'S IMPORTANT!
BOOP
IN A YEAR...
...I PROBABLY WON'T BE HERE BY HER SIDE.
WE CAN'T THINK OF THE FUTURE HERE...
...INSIDE OUR COMFORT-ABLE CAGE.

CHAPTER 3: MURMUR OF A PET

I SEE...
IT'S HASUMI-KUN.
!
R---NG
HELLO?
IT'S ME...
IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO BE LATE TODAY, SO CAN YOU GET DINNER BY YOURSELF?
ARE YOU BUSY WITH WORK?
UH... Y-YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT.
SO I'M SORRY, OKAY? THERE'S 1000 YEN IN THE USUAL PLACE.

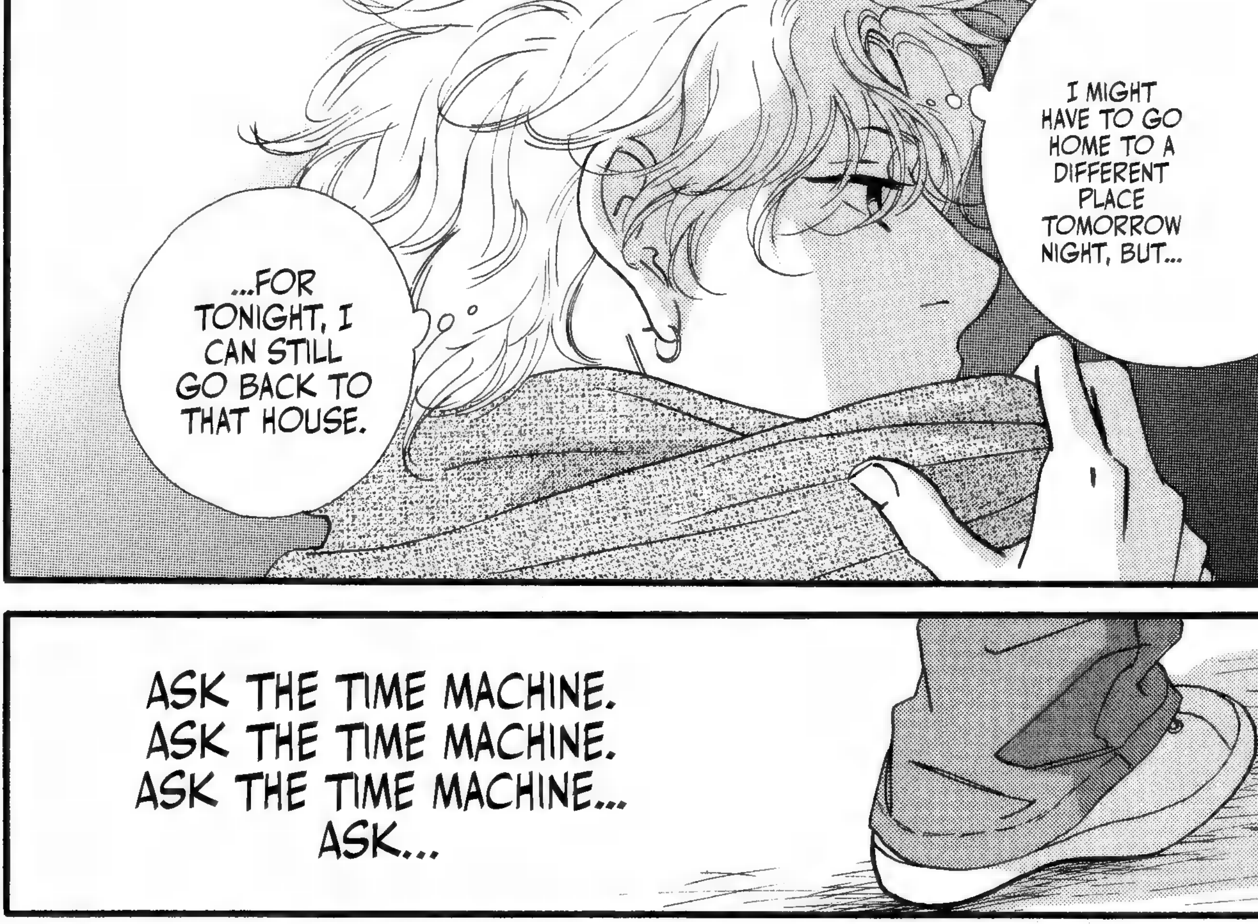
AND, UH...I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO COME HOME, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT UP FOR ME.
OKAAAY.
I HOPE I DON'T DIE OF LONELINESS.
REALLY! PLEASE DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT.
BEEP
WHINE
WHINE
WHY THE PATHETIC SOUNDS?
ARE YOU WAITING FOR YOUR MASTER?
EVEN DOGS GET JEALOUS, HUH?
WHEN YOUR MASTER'S FRIENDLY WITH ANOTHER MAN...

CHAPTER 4: ASK THE TIME MACHINE

HEY! THINGS ARE STARTING TO GET GOING!
I THINK I'LL SPIN MY PERSONAL FAVORITES!
WHAT'S THIS?
NOW...
IF THAT AGE IS COMING THEN...
...SOMETHING'S GOING TO CHANGE...
I KNOW THIS ONE! IT'S "TIME MACHINE NI ONEGAI" BY YOKO KANNO!
NOW, TURN BACK THAT DIAL...
THERE'S ALCOHOL IN THIS ONE.
...A LITTLE TO THE PAST AND...

I CAN GO TO MY FAVORITE TIME.
SORRY... TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
ONE LEAP OVER THE SPIRAL OF TIME.
I'VE GOT SOME GOOD CHOCO-LATE...
WANNA GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER IN THE VIP ROOM?
THEY'VE GOT A SECURITY CAMERA THERE, YOU KNOW.
THAT JUST MAKES IT MORE EXCITING, RIGHT? ♡
HEY, YOU. DIDN'T YOU WORK HERE LAST YEAR?
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
YEAH... YEAH, KIND OF.
LYING
IS IT TRUE THAT KID SUCKS AT SEX AND DOESN'T EVEN LAST TEN SECONDS?
WHAT A WAY TO SAY NO!
ASK THE TIME MACHINE.
ASK THE TIME MACHINE.

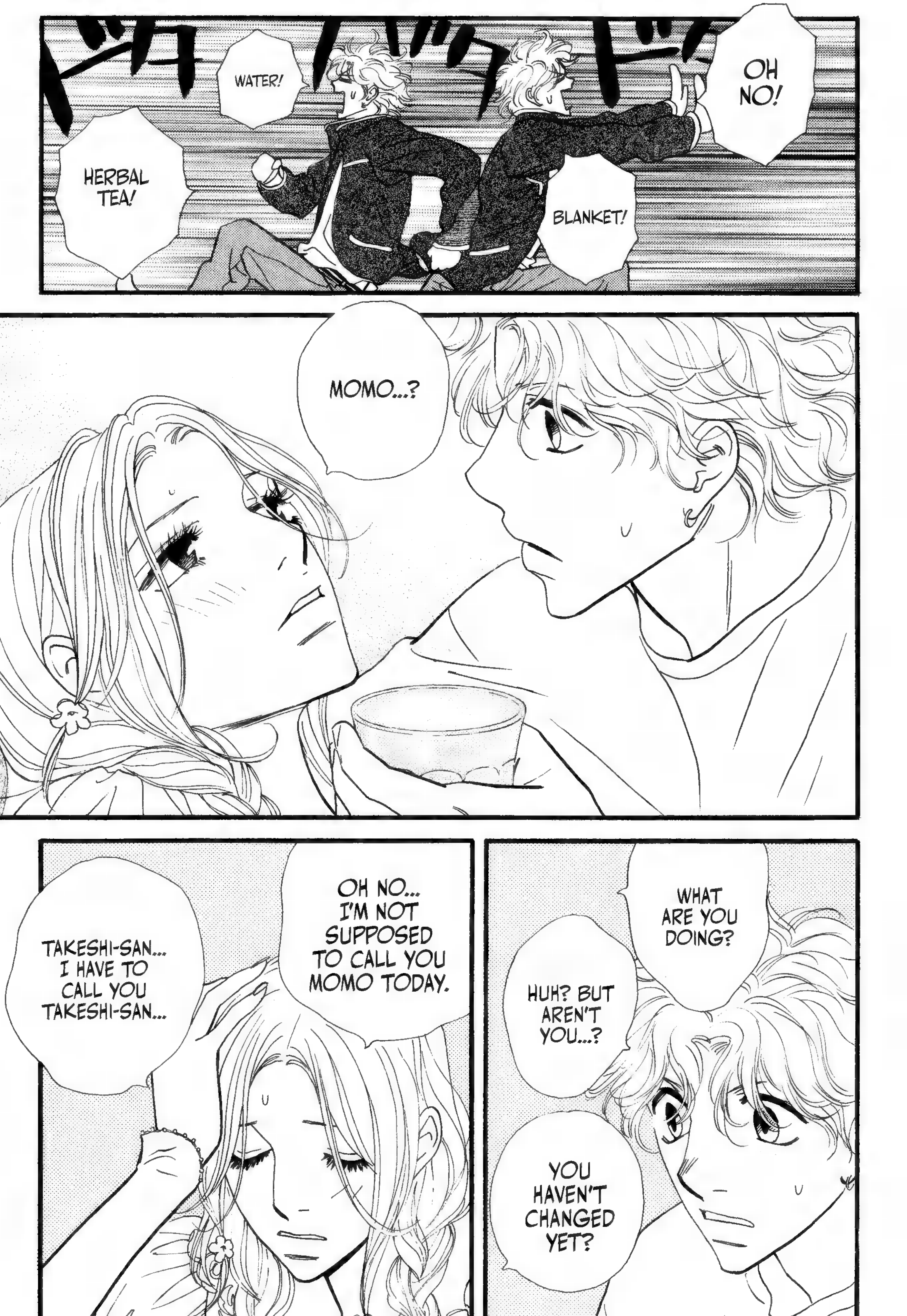
TIME TRAVEL HAS ALREADY BEEN PROVEN LOGICALLY POSSIBLE, HASN'T IT?
HEY, QUIT WITH THE GEEK TALK.
I'D LIKE TO MEET WITH MY PAST SELF AND TELL HIM...
..."YOU'RE ALL RIGHT. DON'T WORRY."
IN THE FIRST PLACE, FROM A THEORETICAL STANCE, THE PASSAGE OF TIME IS--
SOMEONE THROW HIM OUT!
"YOUR FUTURE IS ROSE-COLORED."
OH, YOU'RE GOING HOME?
YEAH...
MY MASTER MAY ALREADY BE BACK HOME, SO...
MASTER?
YOUR NEW SUGAR MAMA?
HOPE THINGS GO WELL THIS TIME!



CHAPTER 5: CHANCE MEETING

A
SOUND?
SUMIRE...
CHAN...?

WHAT?
WHY IS SHE WEARING A WEDDING DRESS?
IS IT SOME KIND OF FETISH?
I ORDER YOU TO GO HOME IN THAT OUTFIT.
OH NO, IT'S SO EMBARRASSING!
SHE'S SWEATING... BUT SHE'S NOT WEARING MUCH AND THE HEATER'S NOT EVEN ON...
MAYBE... WHOA!
SHE DOES HAVE A FEVER!
NN... GHH...


OH NO!
BLANKET!
WATER!
HERBAL TEA!
MOMO...?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HUH? BUT AREN'T YOU...?
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED YET?
OH NO... I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO CALL YOU MOMO TODAY.
TAKESHI-SAN... I HAVE TO CALL YOU TAKESHI-SAN...

I...WAS GOING TO GET SOME FRESH AIR OUTSIDE AND...
...TRIPPED ON THE HEM OF MY DRESS AND FELL OUT THE WINDOW, I THINK.
OKAAAAY.
I GUESS I WAS OKAY...
BUT WAIT.
THIS IS MY HOUSE, ISN'T IT?
YEAH, IT DEFINITELY IS.
OUR STUFF... IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SENT AWAY ALREADY...
SUMIRE-CHAN... SHE DIDN'T LOSE IT FOR REAL THIS TIME, DID SHE?
OH, I GET IT!
THIS IS...
...A DREAM!
IT'S A DREAM ABOUT WHEN WE WERE LIVING TOGETHER.
TEE HEE, IT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.
I KNEW IT! I KNEW IT!
SHE'S LOST IT.

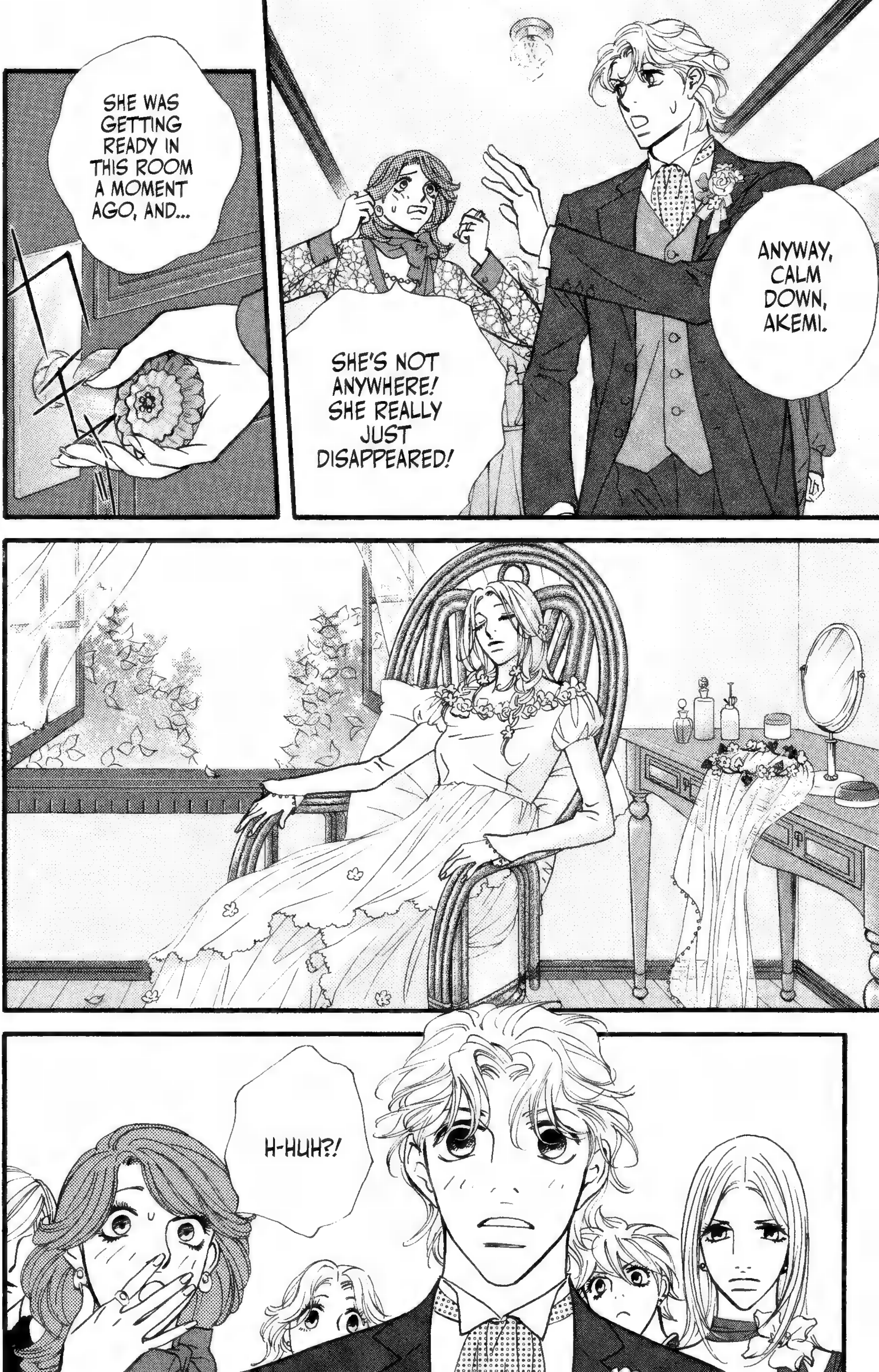
IT'S COLD, MOMO...
HOLD ME...
IS THIS OKAY?
YEAH...
IT'S WARM.

SUMIRE-CHAN...
DO YOU WANT TO BE WITH ME FOREVER?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
OF COURSE...
FOREVER AND EVER...
WE'LL BE TOGETHER FOREVER, RIGHT?
FOR SOME REASON, TEARS WERE FALLING FROM MY EYES.

SHE TRUSTED ME WITH HER WHOLE BEING, LIKE SOME KIND OF SMALL CREATURE.
WARM BODY HEAT.
I DON'T WANT TO LET GO...
...EVER.
THAT'S WHEN MY HEART BEGAN TO BURN WITH HOPE.

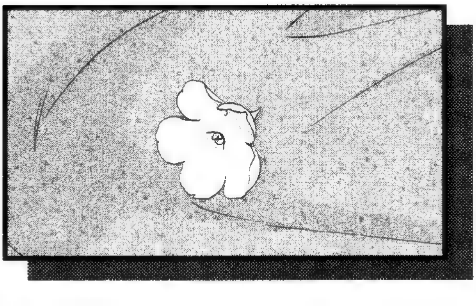
MOMO?
MOMO!
WHY ARE YOU SLEEPING IN HERE?
HUH? WHAT?
YOU HEARD ME!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO GO IN MY ROOM WITHOUT PERMISSION?
...AWW.
WHAT A REALISTIC DREAM.
WAS IT THE ALCOHOL?
THAT, AND YOU'LL CATCH A COLD WITHOUT THE HEAT ON!
I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T COMING HOME TONIGHT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

CHAPTER 6: THE START OF FOREVER


ANYWAY, CALM DOWN, AKEMI.
SHE'S NOT ANYWHERE! SHE REALLY JUST DISAPPEARED!
SHE WAS GETTING READY IN THIS ROOM A MOMENT AGO, AND...
H-HUH?!

......
WAKE UP, SUMIRE-SAN.
SLAP SLAP
SUMIRE-SAN, WHERE WERE YOU UNTIL NOW?!
I DIDN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THAT DREAM, BUT...
...I STILL REMEMBER CLEARLY...
...THAT YOU ONCE CAME TO TELL ME...
...NOT TO LET GO OF SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
TO HOLD FOREVER...

YOU'RE MY PET / THE END



VOLUME COMMENTARY!!

"HOW TO MAKE A FAMILY"

(O) I WANTED THE CHAPTER TITLE TO SOUND LIKE "RULE 1: HOW TO CARE FOR A BEAUTIFUL BOY," BUT IT'S ALMOST WORD FOR WORD. SORRY. THE MODEL FOR THE HOTEL THEY ARE STAYING IN IS THE HOTEL AMIGO, BUT THE STREET RIGHT IN FRONT OF IT WAS THE RUE DE LA VIOLETTE. (SUMIRE = "VIOLET" = VIOLET STREET). IT SURPRISED ME WHEN I WAS WRITING THE MANUSCRIPT. THEY REALLY DID HAVE PIERRE MARCOLINI CHOCOLATES IN THE FRIDGE, BUT I ATE THEM, INSTEAD OF BRINGING THEM BACK AS REFERENCE MATERIAL, AND MY ASSISTANTS GOT MAD AT ME.

(M) FOR THE SCENE WHERE SUMIRE MESSES UP WHILE MEETING TAKESHI'S FAMILY BECAUSE SHE'S NERVOUS, WE DISCUSSED WHAT KIND OF MISTAKE SHE'D MAKE, AND IT WAS A LOT OF FUN. WE HAD A LOT OF IDEAS, LIKE MAKING HER DRINK FROM SOMEONE ELSE'S CUP, BUT IN THE END, WE DECIDED ON THE SLIPPERS.

"L'ÉTRANGER"

(O) I WISH I COULD HAVE SEEN MANY MORE PLACES IN ANTWERP, BUT WE WERE ONLY THERE FOR HALF A DAY. KIMMY-SAN FROM THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL WAS REALLY KIND; SHE EVEN SHOWED US THE COSTUME ROOM. IF I HAVE THE CHANCE, I'D LIKE TO TAKE THE TIME TO DRAW IT AGAIN.

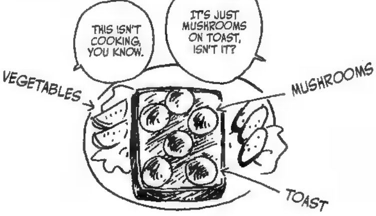
(M) AT THE END OF THIS CHAPTER, THE TIMING FOR RUMI TO CRY WAS EXCELLENT, WASN'T IT? I WAS SURPRISINGLY TOUCHED. BY THE WAY, THE MUSHROOM TOAST THAT APPEARS IN VOLUME 13's 'MA-CHAN GOES FOR IT!!" WAS FROM THE CAFE IN FRONT OF THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL.

"GENTLY WITHOUT TOUCHING"

LIKE "SQUEEZE" OR SOMETHING.

(O) IN THE FLASHBACK SCENE, THE WORD "LUSTS" BEHIND HASUMI-KUN WAS REALLY A LESS LOADED WORD, BUT I DECIDED THIS WAY WAS MORE FUN. PLEASE NOTICE THAT FUKUSHIMA-SAN IS WEARING HEAVY LAYERS OF CLOTHING, TOO.

(M) THE LION CONVERSATION FROM VOLUME 1 FINALLY MAKES SENSE AFTER THIS FLASHBACK OF HASUMI'S, DOESN'T IT? EVEN SO, THIS TIME HASUMI-SAN'S CREEPY BEHAVIOR IS REALLY OBVIOUS. I THINK THAT HASUMI-SAN AND SUMIRE ARE REALLY SIMILAR IN THIS WAY.



"GIRLS"

(O) THE OPENING ILLUSTRATION LOOKS LIKE I SHOULD PUT A WARNING ON IT: "THIS ILLUSTRATION IS JUST AN IMAGE." I DECIDED THAT BECAUSE SHE'S MOMO AND SUMIRE'S DAUGHTER, SAKURA SHOULD HAVE A FLOWER NAME THAT MATCHES, BUT I REMEMBERED THAT MOMO ISN'T HIS REAL NAME LATER...

(M) SAKURA-CHAN LOOKS LIKE BOTH MOMO AND SUMIRE, DOESN'T SHE? YOU CAN TELL THAT SHE'S THEIR CHILD JUST BY LOOKING AT THE ILLUSTRATION. OGAWA-SAN IS A VERY TALENTED ARTIST, ISN'T SHE? AND IN THE END, SHINICHI-SAN'S FACE NEVER APPEARED! I RESPECT RUMIKO TAKAHASHI-SENSEI!!

"NOTHING HAPPENS"

(O) THIS TIME, MA-CHAN THOUGHT UP THE CHAPTER TITLE FOR ME. THE IDEA IS THAT COMMON, EVERYDAY THINGS--NOTHING--CAN GIVE PEOPLE UNBOUNDED JOY. I HOPE SUCH HAPPINESS COMES TO EVERYONE IN THE WORLD.

(M) THE FLIGHT OF FANCY IN THIS EPISODE, RIGHT BEFORE THE LAST EPISODE THAT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE ONE AT ALL, IS VERY LIKE *MY PET* AND IS SOMETHING I REALLY LIKE ABOUT THIS SERIES. THE ENDING, IN WHICH SUMIRE GETS PREGNANT, IS SOMETHING OGAWA-SAN THOUGHT UP OVER TWO YEARS AGO. SINCE THEN, A LOT OF THINGS HAVE HAPPENED TO SUMIRE AND MOMO, BUT IT TOUCHED ME DEEPLY THAT IT ENDED IN SUCH A MANNER.

"OUR FUTURE"

(O) THIS WAS THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE CHAPTER SINCE RULE 78, SO THE ONLY THING I COULD THINK OF WHILE WRITING IT WAS TO GET TO THE END AND FINISH IT. I DID OCCASIONALLY THINK THINGS LIKE, "THIS IS THE LAST TIME I'M GOING TO DRAW SUMIRE AND MOMO, ISN'T IT?" AND "I DON'T NEED ALL THE REFERENCE MATERIAL I'VE COLLECTED NOW," BUT ANY EMOTION WAS BLOWN AWAY BY AN INSISTENT THOUGHT: "I HAVE TO FINISH THIS!" I'M GRATEFUL TO MY STAFF OF ARTISTS WHO WORKED REALLY HARD WITH ME UNTIL THE END.

I SERIOUSLY THOUGHT STUFF LIKE "I CAN'T DIE NOW." (HA!)

(M) I THINK THE QUIETLY TOUCHING ENDING TO THE STORY WAS VERY LIKE OGAWA-SAN. WHEN I VISITED OGAWA-SAN'S HOUSE TO PICK UP THIS MANUSCRIPT, SHE GAVE ME A CAKE WITH "THANK YOU FOR THE HARD WORK FOR OVER SUCH A LONG PERIOD OF TIME" WRITTEN ON IT. I WAS SO GRATEFUL, I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO CRY. OGAWA-SAN, THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.

THE HISTORY OF *YOU'RE MY PET*

YAYOI OGAWA & EDITOR MATSU SPEAK!!

FINALLY, THE SERIES THAT HAS RUN FOR OVER FIVE YEARS IS AT AN END! OGAWA-SAN AND HER EDITOR, MATSU, TALK ABOUT THE SECRETS BEHIND THOSE STORIES OF TEARFUL HARDSHIPS, FUN, BELLY-ACHING LAUGHS AND UNUSUALLY EMOTIONAL EPISODES! THE FUN, YET DIFFICULT, "GET UP AND KEEP TRYING" HISTORY OF *MY PET* IS NOW MADE CLEAR!

COMPLETE CHRONOLOGY OF *MY PET*

Year	TRAMPS STORY	Volume	EVENT
2000	RULE 1: ON KEEPING A BEAUTIFUL BOY AS A PET	VOLUME 1	APPEARS AS A ONE-SHOT STORY IN THE JUNE ISSUE OF *KISS CARNIVAL*.
	RULE 2: HAPPINESS IS MAKING A WILLFUL PET WAIT	VOLUME 1	SERIALIZED THREE TIMES IN *KISS CARNIVAL*.
	RULE 3: HOME ALONE FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME	VOLUME 1	RESEARCHES NOUMI'S DANCE COMPANY.
	RULE 4: WHAT TO DO IF YOUR PET GETS LOST	VOLUME 1	
	RULE 5: CHRISTMAS EVE AND HOW TO SPEND IT	VOLUME 2	SERIES MOVES TO *KISS* AND CONTINUES. (JAPANESE TITLE CHANGES FROM *PET* TO *KIMI WA PET*.)
	RULE 6: THE USEFULNESS OF COMPANION ANIMALS	VOLUME 2	
	RULE 7: IS HE LONESOME TONIGHT?	VOLUME 2	
2001	RULE 8: I'LL SHOW YOU DISCIPLINE	VOLUME 2	*MY PET* RECEIVES FIRST COVER AND COLOR TITLE PAGE IN THE MAY ISSUE OF *KISS*.
	RULE 9: TOGETHER FOREVER	VOLUME 2	
	RULE 10: HOW TO PREY ON THE GOOD WILL OF OTHERS	VOLUME 2	
	RULE 11: OWNERS' PREDICAMENTS	VOLUME 3	*WARE ARCADIA NI MO ARI* (100-PAGE ONE-SHOT) PUBLISHED IN THE FIRST ISSUE OF *ONE MORE KISS*.
	RULE 12: EXPRESSING YOUR FEELINGS IN WORDS	VOLUME 3	
	RULE 13: ON STRANGE WALKS	VOLUME 3	
	RULE 14: FOR A FUN VACATION	VOLUME 3	FOR THE FIRST TIME, VOLUME 3'S JAPANESE BOOK RECEIVES AN OBI.
	RULE 15: ONCE BITTEN...	VOLUME 3	
	RULE 16: THE HOMING INSTINCT	VOLUME 3	

HISTORY OF STORYLINES AND CHARACTERS

M: LOOKING BACK, WE FOCUSED ON HOW PET-LIKE MOMO WAS IN VOLUME 1, DIDN'T WE?

O: YES, YES. YOU WERE WEIRD DURING THE MEETINGS BACK THEN. (LAUGH)

M: LIKE, "MAYBE HE'S AFRAID OF THE VACUUM CLEANER!" (LAUGH)

O: AT THE BEGINNING, I WAS REALLY AGAINST SUMIRE AND MOMO SLEEPING IN THE SAME BED. BUT IN THE END, THE READERS SUPPORTED THAT, DIDN'T THEY?

M: SUMIRE AND MOMO'S RELATIONSHIP HAS CHANGED A LOT SINCE THEN, HASN'T IT?

O: AFTER ALL, HE ISN'T A PET ANYMORE. (LAUGH) MY PERSONALITY IS SUCH THAT I GET BORED EASILY, SO I WRITE MORE AND MORE DIFFERENT THINGS. AFTER ALL, SUMIRE'S PERSONALITY CHANGED A LOT, TOO.

M: BUT ISN'T THAT PERSONAL GROWTH?

O: NO, NO, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, SHE JUST CHANGED BEFORE I REALIZED IT. WELL, I WROTE IT SO THAT IT'D LOOK LIKE SHE WAS GROWING AS A PERSON IN A POSITIVE WAY, THOUGH. (LAUGH)

M: IN CONTRAST, THE CHARACTER OF MOMO DIDN'T CHANGE VERY MUCH, DID IT?

O: YOU KNOW, MOMO IS ONE OF THE EASIEST CHARACTERS TO DRAW, ALONG WITH RYUUNOSUKE FROM *BABY POP*.

M: AT FIRST, HE SEEMS OUT OF IT, BUT...

2002

RULE 17: LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING

FIRST SIGNING EVENT.

RULE 18: REMEMBERING YOUR OWN VALUE

RULE 19: JOB TOO COOL FOR YOUR PET?

RULE 20: ON KEEPING SECRETS...OR NOT

FINALLY, A NEW PLACE TO WORK.

RULE 21: WHEN TO BRING SMALL CREATURES HOME

VOLUME 4

RULE 22: CHERISHING YOUR MEMORIES

RULE 23: HOW MUCH IS THAT DOGGIE IN THE WINDOW?

RULE 24: PROPER BEHAVIOR

RULE 25: WHAT YOU WANT VS. WHAT YOU NEED

RULE 26: HOW TO HAVE A TENDER TOUCH

KIMI WA PET THE BEST GOES ON SALE IN OCTOBER.

RULE 27: THE FOOL, OR THE FOOL WHO FOLLOWS?

VOLUME 5

RULE 28: WHAT KIND OF PET OWNER ARE YOU?

BUSINESS TRIP TO A HOT SPRINGS.

RULE 29: YOUR PET'S PRIVATE LIFE

RULE 30: ON MYSTERIOUS TRIPS--PART 1

RULE 31: ON MYSTERIOUS TRIPS--PART 2

RULE 32: SOMETHING ABOUT HER

RULE 33: A SOFT CAGE

VOLUME 6

RULE 34: WHEN PETS DANCE

THE COMEDY DUO KARATEKA COMES TO WORK FOR AN INTERVIEW.

RULE 35: CRAZY ABOUT YOU

EXTRA HEAVY SYRUP IS SERIALIZED IN THE JANUARY EDITION OF *ONE MORE KISS.*

2003

RULE 36: MY PET IS A CELEBRITY

A DRAMA ADAPTATION BY TBS AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

RULE 37: HER AMAZING MAKEOVER

BUSINESS TRIP TO HONG KONG IN JANUARY.

RULE 38: MISSING YOU

...THE REALITY IS, HE'S THE ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS THINGS THE MOST.

O: HE CAN ALSO BE IN A SUPPORTING ROLE, AND IT'S EASY TO FIT HIS STRANGENESS INTO THE STORY. THE MOMO AND RYUUNOSUKE TYPES ARE MY STOCK CHARACTERS. (LAUGH)

M: WHEN I RE-READ *MY PET* NOW, I THINK THAT THE THINGS WE WERE THINKING ABOUT THEN ARE REFLECTED PRETTY REALISTICALLY.

O: OH. THAT'S SO TRUE. WHEN THE SERIES STARTED, I WAS STILL A NEWBIE AND HAD THAT "I CAN'T FAIL" FEELING. THAT MAY BE REFLECTED IN HOW SUMIRE SEEMS STUBBORN. I PROBABLY CAN'T DRAW THAT KIND OF SUMIRE RIGHT NOW.

DRAMA AND KODANSHA MANGA AWARD HISTORY

M: THE YEAR 2003 WAS FULL OF EVENTS, WITH THE PRODUCTION OF A DRAMA AND THE MANGA AWARD.

O: OH, THIS IS THE PART THAT I REALLY DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO REMEMBER. (LAUGH)

M: YOU WERE REALLY BUSY, WEREN'T YOU? YOU HAD TO DO A LOT OF INTERVIEWS, TOO.

O: THAT, AND WHEN SOMETHING GETS POPULAR, EVERYONE HAS TO HAVE A SAY AND I WASN'T ABLE TO RELAX AND WRITE. I WAS DEPRESSED, REALLY!

M: WHEN DID YOU GET OVER IT?

O: IT WAS ABOUT A THE END OF VOLUME 8. *MY PET* WAS REALLY POPULAR, WASN'T IT? I GOT TO HAVE MY WAY WITH THAT, PRETTY MUCH.

M: WITH THE AMNESIA AND THE COSPLAY...

O: EVEN SO, I SAW THAT THE READERS WERE OKAY WITH THAT AND I WAS ABLE TO RELAX, YOU KNOW. AFTER THAT, IT GRADUALLY BECAME FUN TO WRITE AGAIN.

RULE 39: A SLEEPING BEAUTY

VOLUME 7

RULE 40: HONG KONG, TOKYO AND A GIRL — YAYOI OGAWA ORIGINAL ART SMALL INTESTINE T-SHIRT CREATED.

RULE 41: EXPLOSION! ♡ A LOVING FIST — TV SHOW AIRS ON TBS FROM APRIL TO JUNE, STARRING KOYUKI AND JUN MATSUMOTO.

RULE 42: THE REASON TO BE HERE — OVER 10,000,000 COPIES SOLD.

RULE 43: IN HER MEMORY — *MY PET* WINS THE KODANSHA MANGA AWARD.

RULE 44: A SUGGESTION OF ADVENTURE

VOLUME 8

RULE 45: YOU ARE MY PET — *EXTRA HEAVY SYRUP* PUBLISHED IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF *ONE MORE KISS*.

RULE 46: AGAINST THE RULES

RULE 47: COUNT DOWN

RULE 48: YOU ARE A PET?!

RULE 49: PANDORA'S BOX

RULE 50: WONDERFUL FRIENDS

RULE 51: LOVE♡ LOVE♡ LOVE♡

VOLUME 9

RULE 52: ELEGY (...I GOT WET)

2004

RULE 53: MUTUAL THERAPY — "SUPPLEMENT: KIMIWA PET" IS INCLUDED WITH *KISS* AS A FREE EXTRA.

RULE 54: ICE QUEEN

KIMI WA PET VOLUME 9 AND *EXTRA HEAVY SYRUP* VOLUME 1 ON SALE AT THE SAME TIME.

RULE 55: WOMAN OF THE CANCER SIGN

RULE 56: KOTOBUKI-TAISHA

RULE 57: BRUSHING AGAINST YOUR SLEEVE IS SOME KIND OF "EN," TOO

VOLUME 10

RULE 58: PRIORITIES — OGAWA AND HER EDITOR TAKE A KEEPSAKE PHOTO IN PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING MASKS.

RULE 59: ULTRA FRUSTRATION — SOMETIME THIS SUMMER, THE TIMEFRAME FOR THE END OF THE SERIES WAS ALMOST DECIDED.

RULE 60: A DANGEROUS VACATION

BUSINESS AND RESEARCH TRIP HISTORY

M: OUR FIRST BUSINESS TRIP WAS TO A HOT SPRINGS, WASN'T IT?

O: YEAH. BACK THEN, YOU KNOW, I...MISSED MY STOP ON THE EXPRESS TRAIN. (LAUGH)

M: YOU FORGOT YOUR COAT, AND WHEN YOU WENT BACK TO THE SEAT TO GET IT, THE DOORS CLOSED WITHOUT A SOUND... (LAUGH)

O: IN THE END, I'M GLAD WE GOT TO USE THE EXPERIENCE IN RULE 79, WHICH IS IN THIS BOOK! (LAUGH)

M: HONG KONG WAS SO RUSHED, WASN'T IT?

O: ZERO SIGHTSEEING. IT WAS ONLY RESEARCH. PLUS MY CAMERA BROKE WHILE WE WERE THERE AND I WAS SO FRAZZLED. (LAUGH)

M: LAST YEAR, WE FINALLY GOT TO GO TO BELGIUM!

O: IT WAS FUN, WASN'T IT? THE HOTEL AMIGO WAS SUPER-LUXURIOUS AND SUPER-COMFORTABLE!!

M: OGAWA-SAN, YOU TOOK HOME THEIR SLIPPERS AND TOILET PAPER, DIDN'T YOU?

O: NO, THAT'S OFF THE RECORD, PLEASE. (LAUGH)

IT'S ALL IN THE NAME OF REFERENCE MATERIALS. REFERENCE MATERIALS! (LAUGH)

M: IT'S NOT RESEARCH, BUT YOU DID TWO SIGNINGS, TOO, DIDN'T YOU?

O: I WAS SO NERVOUS! I'M REALLY SHY, SO MY HANDS WERE SHAKING. (LAUGH)

M: BUT IT WAS NICE, BECAUSE A LOT OF PEOPLE CAME TO SEE YOU, WASN'T IT?

O: AT THE SECOND ONE, I RECEIVED A BATH SET FROM THE BODY SHOP. I REALLY LIKED IT AND I LOVE USING IT!

POPULAR THINGS HISTORY

M: YOU USED A LOT OF THINGS THAT WERE POPULAR WITH US IN *TRAMPS* DIDN'T YOU?

O: LIKE *SGT. FROG*? (LAUGH)

M: AND LIKE *THE X-FILES*. (LAUGH)

O: I BORROWED A DVD BOXED SET FROM YOU, MATSU.

2005

RULE 61: CONFESSION

RULE 62: JUMP! — LEFT FOR A BUSINESS TRIP TO BELGIUM IN OCTOBER.

RULE 63: HAPPY BIRTHDAY — CREATED A SPECIAL FIGURE OF MOMO FOR THE SPECIAL EDITION VERSION OF VOLUME 11.

RULE 64: JUST FOR TONIGHT — HELD A SIGNING EVENT.

VOLUME 11

RULE 65: INITIATION

RULE 66: YOUR SLAVE

RULE 67: WHAT'S WITH HER?

RULE 68: I'VE LOST INTEREST IN EVERY MAN ON EARTH

MOVED TO A NEW OFFICE.

RULE 69: LAST DANCE

RULE 70: WAIT A MINUTE HERE

VOLUME 12

RULE 71: YOUR SMILE

RULE 72: GUARDIAN

RULE 73: THE HEART OF LOVE

RULE 74: JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE YOU

BAROQUE PUBLISHED IN THE FIRST ISSUE OF *SIRIUS*.

RULE 75: NEVER SAY DIE

RULE 76: GROW UP

VOLUME 13

RULE 77: HOW TO MAKE A FAMILY

RULE 78: L'ÉTRANGER

RULE 79: GENTLY, WITHOUT TOUCHING

RULE 80: GIRLS

RULE 81: NOTHING HAPPENS

LAST RULE: OUR FUTURE — SERIES ENDS IN ISSUE 21 OF *KISS*.

VOLUME 14

IT HAD "I WANT TO BELIEVE" AND STUFF WRITTEN ON IT, DIDN'T IT?

M: THERE WERE A LOT OF MARTIAL ARTS PLOT LINES, TOO.

O: DURING *BABY POP*, I STARTED GOING TO SEE PRO WRESTLING A LOT. I DIDN'T HAVE ANY INTEREST IN THAT KIND OF GENRE UNTIL THEN, YOU KNOW, SO THE ME WHO WATCHES PRO WRESTLING WAS SO FRESH THAT I WAS A LITTLE HIGH, YOU KNOW. (LAUGH)

OTHER HISTORY

M: WERE THERE ANY CHANGES IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

O: NOTHING! (LAUGH) JUST THAT I MOVED.

M: AROUND VOLUME 4, YOU FINALLY GOT AN OFFICE, DIDN'T YOU?

O: UNTIL THEN, I WAS WRITING IN THE KITCHEN AT HOME. IT WAS SO CRAMPED THAT I KNOW I MUST HAVE CAUSED MY ASSISTANTS GRIEF.

M: WAS THERE SOMETHING THAT REALLY LEFT AN IMPRESSION ON YOU...

...IN THE SERIES?

O: I ILLUSTRATED THE COVER OF *KISS* FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH RULE 8 FROM VOLUME 2. I WAS SO TOUCHED BY THAT! I WENT ALL THE WAY TO THE BOOKSTORE JUST TO LOOK AT IT.

M: THAT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES! I FORGOT THERE WERE TIMES LIKE THAT! IT FEELS LIKE *MY PET* AND US HAVE GROWN IN LOCKSTEP, DOESN'T IT?

O: AFTER ALL, WE WERE BOTH NEWBIES, WEREN'T WE? WE WORKED HARD! (LAUGH) YOU KNOW, BEING A MANGA-KA IS A PRETTY UNEXCITING JOB. IT'S A LIFE OF CAREFULLY WRITING EACH EPISODE, ONE BY ONE... THAT'S THE HISTORY OF *MY PET* (LAUGH)

(A LUCKY DAY IN OCTOBER OF 2005)

You're My Pet 14

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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